FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

16 APRIL 1984

Lebanon

Security Situation — Although Beirut was relatively calm on 15 April, 23 people were killed and almost 50 others were injured in shelling the previous day, Beirut radio reported. Earlier, President Amin al-Jumayyil escaped unhurt when his palace was hit by rocket fire, according to an official announcement cited by the radio. In another development, American University Professor Frank Regier, who was kidnapped in Beirut over 2 months ago, was released on 15 April along with a Frenchman who had also been kidnapped, the radio noted. Regier said that Amal Movement fighters had forcibly secured his release from the kidnappers, whose identity he did not know.

Disengagement, Observers — Implementation of the plan to disengage the opposing forces in and around Beirut has been deferred until the required number of observers are recruited for the force that will supervise the disengagement, Beirut radio reported. The Army Command warned that it will take legal action against reservists who fail to join the observer force, the radio said, and the Security Arrangements Committee earlier deemed the force's current strength "insufficient" and appealed for more recruits in a statement broadcast by the radio.

Political Developments — Opposition leaders held talks with Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam in Damascus on 15 April, according to Beirut radio. Radio Monte Carlo linked Libyan Staff Major 'Abd as-Salam Jallud's current visit to Damascus with efforts to reconcile Progressive Socialist Party leader Walid Junblatt and Al-Murabitun leader Ibrahim Qulaylat following the clash between their forces in Beirut last month. Meanwhile, in an interview with the radio, Amal leader Nabih Birri viewed the return of Syrian Arab Deterrent Forces to Beirut as "essential and a must to prevent partition and Zionization." Birri also called for a dialogue with the Christians concerning the situation in southern Lebanon, Beirut radio reported.

Sources cited by the London paper *ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT* asserted that Syria informed Lebanon there will be no summit until President al-Jumayyil adopts a "clear stand" on political reforms, restructuring the Army, and consolidating the ceasefire. On the other hand, Marj 'Uyun Voice of Hope radio cited reports that the summit has been postponed because of President Hafiz al-Asad's illness.

Syria

Al-Asad Health — Although Jerusalem radio noted "persistent rumors" among Western journalists that President al-Asad had died, Damascus radio reported that he met with Libya's Jallud on 16 April. Radio Monte Carlo quoted a Syrian spokesman as saying that Al-Asad's health is "excellent" and noting that the president is working "15 hours a day."

Policy Statement — Syria has strengthened its role and compelled its worst and biggest enemies to respect it, Prime Minister 'Abd ar-Ra'uf al-Kasm declared in a government policy statement to the People's Assembly broadcast by Damascus television. Reaffirming Syrian foreign policy stands, he stated that no enemy can undermine its position on Lebanon or the Palestinian issue.

Israel

Bus Hijacking — Fatah, rather than the PFLP, was "probably" responsible for the hijacking incident in the Gaza Strip, Defense Minister Arens disclosed in an interview broadcast by Jerusalem television. Asked about Syrian involvement, Arens said that following Israeli shelling of "terrorist bases under Syrian control" in Lebanon there had been a "lull" in terrorist activity. In a separate interview broadcast by IDF Radio, Arens remarked that the fact that "terrorist headquarters" are located in Syria, South Yemen, and Tunisia does not limit Israel's ability to retaliate for such attacks, adding that Israel is not limited to "defensive measures" against the terrorists in Syria. Arens also stressed that there has been no change in Israel's policy of not submitting to "terrorist blackmail."

In a related development, Israel's ambassador accused the United Nations of encouraging terrorism by granting the PLO observer status, Jerusalem radio reported. He noted that the PFLP, which claimed responsibility for the hijacking, is headquartered in Damascus and described the Syrian capital as a "center for international terror." "Government sources" disclosed that instructions for carrying out terrorist acts in Israel originate in Damascus, the radio charged in another report.

Relations With FRG — Friendly relations between Israel and West Germany will be impossible if the FRG proceeds with arms sales to Arab countries, Deputy Prime Minister David Levi said in an interview reported by Jerusalem radio.

Embassies in Jerusalem — Israel hopes that other countries will follow the example of Costa Rica and El Salvador and reestablish their embassies in Jerusalem, a Foreign Ministry official told a Jerusalem radio correspondent.

PLO Affairs

Gaza Hijacking Incident — In remarks published by the Amman newspaper *SAWT ASH-SHA'B*, PFLP Political Bureau member Bassam Abu Sharif described the Gaza operation as an embodiment of the PFLP-DFLP Joint Command's political line. He called on all Palestinian factions and national forces, particularly the "brothers" in the Fatah leadership, to escalate the armed struggle in the occupied territory.

A commentary broadcast by Baghdad Voice of PLO radio asserted that the operation carried out by "our hero revolutionaries" proves the credibility of the decisions to escalate the armed struggle inside the "occupied homeland" and disproves claims that the PLO's influence is weakening.

Fatah Central Committee Meeting — The Fatah Central Committee met in Tunis 15 April in the presence of PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, Baghdad Voice of PLO radio reported. The Central Committee formed a delegation to participate in an 18 April meeting with representatives of the PFLP and the DFLP in Algiers and discussed a visit to Moscow by a Fatah Central Committee delegation scheduled for the "end of April."

Relations With Libya — 'Arafat's group is preparing a "terrorist scheme" against the Libyan People's Bureaus in Budapest, Djibouti, and Bucharest, JANA alleged. Fatah Central Committee member Salah Khalaf's deputy Amin al-Hindi is in Belgrade to oversee the operations, JANA charged, which are part of the "terrorist design" aimed at "Arab-Libyan fraternity."

Iran

Voting in the Majlis and Council of Experts elections began 15 April, Tehran radio reported. The radio announced that the deadline for voting had been extended due to the "vast participation." However, the clandestine Free Voice of Iran radio alleged that less than 10 percent of the eligible voters participated and described the election as a "vote of no confidence" in the Khomeyni regime. The radio reported that Interior Minister 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri had rushed to Kordestan to aid provincial officials, adding that polling was lighter in Kordestan than anywhere else. IRNA, on the other hand, cited the interior minister as saying that Kordestan's participation in the elections was "very good" despite propaganda by "splinter groups."

Iran-Iraq War

The Egyptian plan for ending the Iran-Iraq war will be disclosed shortly, after it has been presented to the parties concerned, MENA announced. The plan calls for an end to the current hostilities and negotiation between the two belligerents and proposes economic compensation for war losses, the report added.

FBIS

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PFLP Official Urges More Armed Struggle

JN140930 Amman SAWT ASH-SHA'B in Arabic 14 Apr 84 pp 1, 19

["Exclusive" dispatch]

[Text] Damascus — The Martyr Guevarra of Gaza operation was an embodiment of the political line drawn up by the joint command of the PFLP and the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine in accordance with the resolutions of the Front's [as published] Central Committee.

This is what Bassam Abu Sharif, member of the joint command and member of the PFLP Political Bureau, stated to *SAWT ASH-SHA'B*. He added: Armed struggle will be escalated in order to pave the way for attaining the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and to establish their national, independent state on the soil of their homeland. There will be no alternative to this state, either through an alternative homeland or autonomy.

Abu Sharif added: We call on all the revolution factions and national forces to mobilize all of their potential in order to escalate armed and popular struggle in the occupied territory. We in the joint command extend our hands particularly to the brothers in the Fatah leadership for the sake of escalating armed struggle against the enemy. We emphasize that we have deep roots in our people's circles and that the attempts by Shamir, Arens, Sharon, and other Zionists will only increase our determination to continue our struggle to attain our national rights, supported by the justice of our national cause, the sacrifices of our Palestinian and Arab people, and a world front of friends and allies.

Asked about the escalation of armed action and the practical capabilities available for this escalation, Abu Sharif indicated that the revolution fighters have begun to provide all the armament capabilities for the continuation and escalation of armed action through long, persevering work. He added that Jewish elements which understand the Palestinian people's struggle have begun to participate in this action and to provide it with the elements of success. This is because they realize the Zionist entity's racist nature is hostile to mankind and progress, and they are aware that stability cannot be achieved in our region and homeland except through the Palestinian people's right to determine their destiny. Therefore, he said, we demand the release of Jewish struggler Udi Adiv and his companions: The Jerusalem operation heroes Lieutenant Fu'ad and Lieutenant Carlos; Japanese detainee (Kozo Okamoto); and 30 other strugglers suffering from the detention conditions and severe torture

ICO Jerusalem Committee Emergency Meeting Set

LD141306 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1246 GMT 14 Apr 84

[Text] Rabat, 14 Apr (KUNA) — The KUNA correspondent in Rabat has learned that the emergency meeting of the Jerusalem Committee of the ICO will now be held on 19 April in Fes.

Reliable Arab diplomatic sources here told the KUNA correspondent the meeting will be on the foreign minister level and will be attended by PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat.

The meeting will discuss preparations for the emergency meeting to be held by the Islamic foreign ministers to discuss conditions in Jerusalem and the bill now before Congress pertaining to the transfer of the U.S. Embassy from Tel-Aviv to Jerusalem.

23 Countries To Attend

LD141627 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1521 GMT 14 Apr 84

[Excerpts] Rabat 14 Apr (KUNA) — Sources close to the General Secretariat of the ICO mentioned that 23 Islamic countries have agreed to attend the extraordinary conference for the Islamic foreign ministers called for by Algeria at the request of PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat.

These sources told KUNA that the minimum legal number for holding the conference later this month is 29 countries.

Algeria has called for holding this conference to discuss the intention of the U.S. Administration to move its embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem according to the draft resolution discussed by the U.S. Congress.

Sources said that the conference will be held in Algeria, and that the ICO General Secretariat is conducting high level contacts with Morocco, the PLO, and Algeria to guarantee that the Moroccan monarch, King Hassan II, will preside over the conference in Algeria in his capacity as chairman of the Fourth Islamic Summit held in Casablanca during the second half of last January.

On the other hand, Moroccan official sources confirmed that all the members of the Jerusalem Committee — 14 countries — have agreed to attend the committee's extraordinary meeting 19 April in Fes.

During the committee's meetings, Jerusalem Fund, in which several Islamic countries participate, will meet. Mr 'Arafat will participate in both meetings.

KUNA Reports 'Arafat's Departure For Algiers

LD131722 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1633 GMT 13 Apr 84

[Text] Tunis 13 Apr (KUNA) — The chairman of the PLO Executive Committee Mr Yasir 'Arafat left for Algiers today in a surprise visit, the second of its kind, to the Algerian capital in 3 days. Informed Palestinian sources told KUNA that Mr Yasir 'Arafat would hold more consultations with the Algerian leader during this visit in the context of the efforts made by Algeria and the PDRY to secure the convening of a meeting between the chairman of the Executive Committee of the PLO and the secretaries general of the PFLP and Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP), George Habash and Nayif Hawatimah, respectively, to pave the way for finding a common platform between them over several issues posed on the Palestinian scene, a matter that would facilitate holding the forthcoming meeting of the PNC.

These sources have expressed their conviction that Salah Salah, member of the PFLP Political Bureau and Salah Ra'fat, member of the DFLP Political Bureau, who left Damascus for Algiers early today, would bring new ideas leading to convening a tripartite meeting between Yasir 'Arafat, Habash and Hawatimah next week.

San'a' VOP on Arrival

GF141626 San'a' Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 14 Apr 84

[Text] Brother Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], chairman of the PLO Executive Committee and commander in chief of the Palestinian Revolution Forces, arrived in Algiers from Tunis yesterday. He will hold talks with Algerian officials in the framework of the Algerian efforts to find a common ground among all Palestinian revolution factions to prepare for the PNC convocation.

Fatah Central Committee Meets in Tunis

GF150914 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0520 GMT 15 Apr 84

[Text] Tunis, 14 Apr (WAKH) — In its meeting today, in the presence of PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, the Fatah Central Committee formed its delegation to the dialogue meeting scheduled to be held in Algeria on 18 April, with representatives of the PFLP, the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, Algeria, the PDRY, and the Lebanese nationalist movement.

Central Committee member Khalid al-Hasan announced that the Fatah delegation will include Central Committee members Khalil al-Wazir, alias Abu Jihad; Hayil 'Abd al-Hamid; Hani al-Hasan; Central Committee Secretary Saqr Abu Nizar; and PLO representative in Aden 'Abbas Zaki. He said that the Central Committee has discussed the results of the dialogue recently held with Yemeni officials in Aden and all the sides involved in the dialogue which aims at reorganizing the Palestinian arena and reaching a joint formula on Palestinian work in the forthcoming stage, including the convening of the PNC. Mr al-Hasan said that the Central Committee has also studied the Jerusalem Committee meeting to be held in Fes on 19 April. Mr 'Arafat will head the Palestinian delegation to this meeting which will discuss the serious situation and threats to which Jerusalem is being subjected. He said that the Central Committee discussed the program and visit of its delegation to Moscow at the end of this month and the points to be included on the agenda of the talks with the Soviet (?leadership), pointing out that the delegation will also include Salah Khalaf [sentence incomplete].

Voice of PLO Cites 'Arafat on Main PLO Objective

JN151738 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1618 GMT 15 Apr 84

[Text] Brother leader Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] has stressed that the PLO's main objective is the establishment of an independent and sovereign Palestinian state in confederation with Jordan.

In a press statement published in Riyadh, brother leader Abu 'Ammar pointed out that the PLO seeks to hold an international conference in this regard to discuss the solution that would guarantee peace in the Middle East. He added that the PLO is thinking of asking the United Nations to form a special committee.

At the end of his statements, Brother Abu 'Ammar accused the United States of completely ignoring facts in the Middle East.

TANJUG Cites QNA: 'Arafat to Meet Rif'at al-Asad

LD161016 Belgrade TANJUG in English 0922 GMT 16 Apr 84

["Pool" item]

[Text] Tunis, April 16 (QNA) — PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat will meet with Syrian's second Vice President Rif'at al-Asad in a yet undisclosed European capital within the coming fortnight according to press reports published here Sunday.

Tunisian newspaper *LA PRESSE* quoting "informed" Palestinian sources for its report said the meeting was likely to ease tension in the PLO's relations with Syria in view of the close relationships existing between 'Arafat and Rif'at al-Asad, who is a brother of the Syrian president.

A rupture in the relations between 'Arafat, who has his headquarters in Tunis, and the Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad occurred when the PLO chairman accused Syria of backing and supporting rebels within the Fatah movement. Syria denied the charge, and 'Arafat was asked to leave Syria for good in June last year.

'Arafat has on more than one occasion spoken of a close relationship between him and Rif'at al-Asad who was appointed vice president by a presidential decree coinciding with the formation of a new Syrian cabinet last month.

Salah Khalaf To Lead PLO Delegation to USSR

LD161404 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1310 GMT 16 Apr 84

[Text] Damascus, 16 Apr (KUNA) — A leading Palestinian source has mentioned that the Soviet leadership has addressed an invitation to a delegation from the Fatah Central Committee members to visit the Soviet Union at the beginning of May.

The source added that Salah Khalaf — Abu Iyad — member of the Central Committee, will lead the delegation, and that the talks will concentrate on the Soviet leadership's initiative to solve the dispute within the PLO, which was presented by Deputy Chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers Geydar Aliyev during his recent visit to Damascus, and on the quadripartite alliance's initiative.

KUWAIT

U.S. Concern Over Saudi Dinner for Dobrynin Belittled

LD160951 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0714 GMT 16 Apr 84

[Text] Kuwait, 16 Apr (KUNA) — A Kuwaiti paper today criticized the United States' expression of concern over a dinner party hosted by the Saudi ambassador to Washington, Prince Bandar ibn Sultan, last Thursday for his colleague Soviet Ambassador Anatoliy Dobrynin, while another paper said that establishing diplomatic relations between Riyadh and Moscow will enhance the independence of the region.

Neither diplomatic relations nor official contacts exist between Saudi Arabia and the United States [as received]; however, the Saudi Embassy in Washington announced that Prince Bandar had hosted a dinner party for Dobrynin in his capacity as doyen of the diplomatic corps.

AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM said the United States "does not recognize friendships nor the rights of states to practice their sovereignty and the right to deal with other states on equal footing." It noted that the "American concern" reveals "what the Arabs can do, particularly the Arabs who are described as moderates, if they initiate certain steps that show that they are not doomed permanently to a corner, as the Americans believe, which would give the United States the opportunity to recklessly deal with and support Israel as she wishes." The paper expressed its hope that the banquet will be "a painful sting in the side of the United States" and it expected that all the Arabs will reach the phase of confrontation with the United States.

AL-WATAN expressed its belief that "any consolidation of Saudi-Soviet relations will in the end contribute to the interest of the Arab issue in general and the Gulf region and the Arabian Peninsula in particular." The paper noted that the situation in the Gulf requires a balanced foreign policy, and added that the establishment of full diplomatic relations between Saudi Arabia and the Soviet Union will lead to the end of the U.S. monopoly of dealing with the situation in Arabian Gulf. It emphasized that establishing such relations will also consolidate stability in the region and prevent putting "all Gulf and Arab apples in one basket" and will contribute to strengthening Saudi development programs.

The paper expressed its hope that the "dinner of the two ambassadors, Bandar and Dobrynin, will be an introduction to a wider dialogue for the sake of finding formulas for understanding and cooperation between the two countries."

'Senior Soviet Diplomat' on Military Role in Mideast

GF131750 Kuwait AL-QABAS in Arabic 12 Apr 84 pp 1, 17

[Report on interview with unnamed senior Soviet diplomat by *AL-QABAS* diplomatic editor — date and place not given]

[Excerpt] A senior Soviet diplomat has ruled out any military operations or limited war at the present stage in the Middle East. He told *AL-QABAS*: The information which the Soviet Union has does not indicate that there will be radical changes, or that there are forces on the two sides of the front, or even that there are preparations for a radical confrontation by Israel or Syria. He went on to say: We believe that Israel is concocting an attack against Syria with the help of the United States. This will take place in late May or June when the Shamir government will have acquired information on the U.S. public opinion with regard to the next U.S. President. Israel will also have uncovered the views of the Israelis toward the ruling [party] in Israel.

The Soviet diplomat added: Moscow will absolutely not allow Israel to strike Syria. Moscow is absolutely not ready to dispatch forces to defend Syria, it will not allow the destruction of another post, nor will it allow the destruction of its most important ally in the Middle East. Moscow will do its utmost and even much further than that to obviate any Syrian defeat.

Regarding the methods [to attain this goal] the Soviet diplomat said: We possess the determination, the power, and the will. We will protect our experts and protect our projects in Syria by all means. We believe that the Syrians have the potency to demonstrate steadfastness in the wake of any U.S.-backed Israeli aggression.

Answering a question about the Soviet intentions to dispatch new sophisticated weapons to Syria, the diplomat said: We fully provide all the needs of the Syrian Army. We believe that the Soviet weapons which are used by the Syrian Army will never suffer a defeat at the hands of the Israelis.

The Soviet diplomat refused to reveal or to refer to the number of Soviet experts in Syria. He also refused to talk about their duties. But he said: We are present in Syria in accordance with a cooperation agreement and within the framework of the implementation of the text of the joint defense pact between the two countries.

Regarding a statement made by a senior official in Moscow on the eve of the visit to Damascus by Geydar Aliyev, first deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers and member of the Politburo of the Central Committee, that Aliyev would discuss measures designed to restore peace to the region, the Soviet diplomat said: The Soviet Union currently regards Syria as the first defense line of the Soviet territories. Moscow can never accept infringement of Syrian defenses.

The Soviet diplomat alluded to the fact that his country is seriously concerned about the developments of the Gulf war and particularly with the Israeli role in this war. He inquired: How can we expect a war between Syrian and Israel at a time the Gulf war is still at its peak? After being reminded that Israel invaded Lebanon during the Gulf war, he said: Yes, Israel launched a large-scale aggression on Lebanon, this feeble country. But it did not launch a genuine war.

The Soviet diplomat accentuated that it is still very early to talk about an Israeli-Syrian war or about ending the Gulf war. He urged the Arab countries to be alert to the U.S. plans which are designed to plunder the Arab resources and to eliminate every move aimed at attaining economic and diplomatic independence.

Defense Minister Ends Official Talks in U.S.

LD131403 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1315 GMT 13 Apr 84

[Excerpt] Washington, 13 Apr (KUNA) — Kuwait Defense Minister Shaykh Salim as-Sabah ended his official talks with the American officials today and started a private visit to the United States which will continue for some days.

Foreign Minister To Visit UK, Algeria, Libya

LD141246 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1128 GMT 14 Apr 84

[Text] Kuwait, 14 Apr (KUNA) — Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir, deputy prime minister, minister of foreign affairs and minister of information, starts a 1-day visit to Algeria next Monday, followed by a similar visit to the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah on Tuesday. Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad will go to Algeria from London, where he is expected to arrive tonight or tomorrow at the latest.

Diplomatic sources told KUNA that Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad's visit to Algeria comes within the framework of the two countries' joint efforts to end the Iraq-Iran war, in addition to discussing bilateral relations between the two countries and exchanging views on current Arab issues in general.

As for the visit to Libya, the sources explained that this comes within the framework of the mission which was given to the seven-man Arab committee that stemmed from the extraordinary meeting of Arab foreign ministers held in Baghdad on 13 March, which held its first meeting in Tunisia at the end of last month.

Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad visited Paris and London earlier this month within the framework of the mission of the said committee, where he discussed with his French and British counterparts Claude Cheysson and Geoffry Howe a number of important issues which concentrated mostly on the Iraq-Iran war and the necessity of the European countries exerting effective efforts to bring about an early end to this destructive war.

Trial of 70 Charged With Work Permit Forgery Opens

GF151104 Kuwait ARAB TIMES in English 14 Apr 84 p 1

[Text] The trial of 70 suspects charged in connection with a bribery and forgery scandal involving work permits opens today in Kuwait's criminal court. The trial of suspects from the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour involves the largest number ever to appear in a Kuwait court for one case.

The principal defendant is said to be an Egyptian worker at the ministry who is alleged to have accepted KD20,000 in bribes to steal work permits. He is then said to have given them to an Iraqi typist who changed the name.

The defendants face charges including accepting bribes, forging official documents and entering the country illegally. After today's session, further hearings are to be held on Saturday and Monday.

OMAN

Sultan Qabus Receives Algerian, Indian Messages

GF141419 Muscat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 14 Apr 84

[Excerpts] His Majesty Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'id has received a message from his brother, Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid.

The message was conveyed to Fahd ibn Mahmud Al Bu Sa'id, deputy prime minister for legal affairs, during his meeting in his office this morning with Mohamed Cherif Kharroubi, envoy to the Algerian president, minister of education and FLN Central Committee member.

During the meeting, which was attended by the Algerian ambassador to Oman, the two sides discussed the fraternal relations between the two countries and means of strengthening them, the current Arab situation and issues of common interest.

His majesty has also received a message from Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi. It was conveyed to Fahd ibn Mahmud Al Bu Sa'id, deputy prime minister for legal affairs, during his meeting in his office this afternoon with E. Ahamad, envoy to the Indian prime minister and minister of industry in the Indian state of Kerala.

Indian Official Departs

GF150759 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0515 GMT 15 Apr 84

[Text] Muscat, 14 Apr (WAKH) — E. Ahamad, minister of industry in the Indian state of Kerala, left Muscat this evening after a visit to the Sultanate of Oman.

During his visit to Oman, the Indian minister delivered a message to Sultan Qabus from Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi on bilateral relations and the situation in the international arena.

Iranian Charge Delivers Message to Parliamentarian

GF131543 Tehran IRNA in English 1508 GMT 13 Apr 84

[Text] Tehran, April 13, IRNA — Iran's charge d'affaires to Oman, Mr. Tabataba'i Thursday met and conferred with that country's speaker of parliament, Hamid 'Abdallah Harithi.

During the meeting, the charge d'affaires submitted a message of Majlis Speaker 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani of the Islamic Republic to his Omanese counterpart on the use of chemical weapons by Iraq against Iranian combatants, and the necessity of condemning this criminal act.

UAE Pilots, Planes Arrive for Joint Exercises

GF141330 Muscat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 14 Apr 84

[Excerpt] A number of pilots, engineers, and technicians from the UAE Air Force arrived at the Samrit airbase this morning on board six Mirage fighter planes supported by two Hercules C-130's carrying their gear. They are led by Staff Major Pilot Jasim Muhammad ash-Shamsi. They will carry out joint exercises with fighter pilots in the Omani sultan's air force, in which Jaguar, Mirage, and Hunter warplanes will take part.

This is the second time pilots from the two fraternal countries have carried out joint exercises in this field, the first being those which took place in the fraternal UAE in February.

Algerian Minister Arrives With Bendjedid Message

LD150938 Algiers APS in Arabic 0800 GMT 15 Apr 84

[Text] Muscat, 15 Apr (APS) — Mr Mohamed Cherif Kharroubi, member of the FLN Central Committee and minister of national education, arrived in Muscat yesterday carrying a message from President Chadli Benjedid, president of the Republic and secretary-general of the party, to Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'id of Oman.

Mr Kharroubi, after his arrival, was received by Mr Fahd ibn Mahmud Al Bu Sa'id, the Omani deputy prime minister for legal affairs, who received the message on behalf of Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'id.

QATAR

Amir Leaves for Four-Nation Tour of India, Far East

GF160656 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0625 GMT 16 Apr 84

[Excerpt] Doha, 16 Apr (WAKH) — The amir of Qatar, His Highness Shaykh Khalifah ibn Hamad Al Thani, left today for Pakistan on a 3-day official visit, the first leg of a tour to a number of Asian countries that also includes India, the Republic of Korea, and Japan.

The amir's tour will last until 25 April. He is accompanied by a senior official delegation which includes Shaykh 'Abd al-'Aziz ibn Khalifah Al Thani, finance and oil minister; Shaykh Ahmad ibn Sayf Al Thani, minister of state for foreign affairs; Dr Hasan Kamil, adviser to his highness the amir of Qatar; and 'Isa Ghanim al-Kuwari, information minister, in addition to a press delegation.

Austrian Foreign Minister Lanc Visits Country

Arrival 14 April

GF141750 Manama WAKH in English 1650 GMT 14 Apr 84

[Text] Doha, April 14 (WAKH) — Austrian Foreign Minister Erwin Lanc arrived here today on a 2-day visit to Qatar as part of a tour in the region.

He will hold talks with officials here on bilateral relations and issues of mutual interest.

Meeting With Amir

GF141809 Doha Television Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 14 Apr 84

[Excerpts] His highness the amir, Shaykh Khalifah ibn Hamad Al Thani, received in his office at the Ad-Dawhah Palace at 1730 today Erwin Lanc, Austrian minister of foreign affairs.

QNA has learned that the visiting official conveyed to his highness the amir the greetings and good wishes of Austrian President Rudolf Kirchschlaeger and Austrian Chancellor Dr Fred Sinowatz. It has also learned that during the meeting the two sides reviewed the relations between the two friendly countries and means of strengthening and bolstering them in various fields and a number of issues of common interest, particularly the Middle East developments and the situation in the region.

His highness the amir also met in his office at the Ad-Dawhah Palace at 1900 today Richard Murphy, U.S. assistant secretary of state for Middle East and South Asian affairs.

QNA has learned that during the meeting, a general review was made of the current Arab and international developments, foremost being the Middle East crisis and the situation in the region, and relations between Qatar and the United States and means of strengthening them in all fields.

Departure for Riyadh

GF151010 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0735 GMT 15 Apr 84

[Excerpt] Doha, 15 Apr (WAKH) — Austrian Foreign Affairs Minister Erwin Lanc left Doha for Riyadh today, following a 2-day visit to Qatar within the framework of his tour of a number of the region's states.

SAUDI ARABIA

Prince Bandar Dinner for Dobrynin 'Raises Eyebrows'

GF151118 Dubayy KHALEEJ TIMES in English 15 Apr 84 p 1

[Text] Washington (KUNA) — In a move that has caused some raised eyebrows in the State Department, Saudi Arabia's ambassador to the U.S., Prince Bandar ibn Sultan, has given a dinner for the Soviet ambassador to the U.S., Mr Anatoliy F. Dobrynin.

Saudi Arabia and the Soviet Union have no diplomatic relations and there was intense speculation here this week that Thursday night's dinner might herald a thaw in ties between the two countries.

Prince Bandar reportedly invited Mr Dobrynin in the Soviet envoy's capacity as the dean of the diplomatic corps. But diplomatic circles noted that this is the first time such a dinner has been hosted by a Saudi envoy in Washington.

Oil Minister Yamani Interviewed by AL-AHRAM

PM131550 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 11 Apr 84 p 5

[Interview with Petroleum and Mineral Resources Minister Ahmad Zaki Yamani by Afkar al-Kharadili — date, place not given]

[Excerpts] Question: Have the Gulf states prepared themselves for the possibility of a Strait of Hormuz closure and if so, how? Also, to what extent would such a development affect Gulf oil exports, and what effect has the Iraqi-Iranian war had on the oil-exporting countries so far?

Answer: The answer to the last part of your question on the Iraqi-Iranian war is that in the beginning the war did cause a shock to the oil market and did lead to a temporary hike in prices, but that soon stopped and was followed by a downward trend. The war also led to a loss of 3 million barrels to the oil market. As a result there was a drop in the oil surplus, and that helped the OPEC members and other states in tackling the acute crisis which faced them. That was the only good effect, if one could call it that, of the war.

As regards the question on the closure of the Strait of Hormuz, such a closure would cause serious problems to the Gulf's oil-exporting countries, and also to the oil consumers. A closure of the straits would mean a loss of 8 million barrels to the world market, of which 4 million can be covered from OPEC and other sources. That would leave a shortage of 4 million, which could cause an economic problem if the closure continued for a long time. As far as the Gulf states are concerned, the financial consequences could be surmounted because the closure would not last long, but some states need the gas used in desalination and power plants. If oil production is suspended, then gas production would be suspended, which would mean suspension of fresh water and electricity production. To the states which depend on gas this is an extremely important and serious matter.

Question: What preparations have you made for dealing with such a situation?

Answer: Actually, one normally cannot talk about such dangers before they occur. Since this matter does not only concern us, our preparations, however limited, support and strengthen the world's preparations as a whole.

Question: What, in your view, are the most serious attitudes which OPEC has had to face or may have to face in the future within OPEC itself or outside OPEC?

Answer: Only two things: increased production and reduced prices. The most dangerous attitude has been Iran's attitude, because it has frequently increased its production and reduced its prices, although that danger receded after the London agreement of March, 1983. Iran now behaves with a greater sense of responsibility.

Question: Do you believe that it is acting more responsibly now?

Answer: We do not believe that it is behaving exactly as we would have liked it to, but there is less of its old behavior.

Question: Is there no role for Arab money and Arab oil to play in world events such as the U.S. presidential elections? If there is, how should that role be played?

Answer: Without doubt, the oil influence has diminished as a result of the world oil glut and the Arab oil-producing states' inability to use it as a political force at present, but oil is still politically important, because the world cannot survive without Arab oil. We believe that by 1987 the picture will change and the political power of oil will be just as it was in 1973 and 1979.

Question: Would the discovery of oil in other parts of the region be a problem for Saudi Arabia? Would it, for example, affect Saudi Arabia's revenue?

Answer: We actually welcome the discovery of oil in other parts of the region, because that would only strengthen Saudi Arabia. The oil market is beginning to grow, and we and others should be able to sell in the future without detriment to any side.

Question: Have we not been calling for a reduction in output?

Answer: The discovery, extraction, and export of oil is a process which takes at least 5 years. We believe that by 1987 the oil market will favor the exporters. Moreover, we do not believe that between now and 1987 there will be new oil resources that would affect the oil market.

Health Minister Al-Qusaybi's Poem Scores 'Slanderers'

WA131850 Riyadh AL-JAZIRAH in Arabic 5 Mar 84 p 11

[Poem by Minister of Health Dr Ghazi al-Qusaybi: "Al-Mutannabbi's Last Letter to Sayf ad-Dawlah"]

[Text] Our poet Dr Ghazi al-Qusaybi has often honored us with one of his masterpieces. Perhaps this time, with his address to Sayf ad-Dawlah [ruler of Aleppo, 944-967 AD], our poet wishes to reflect feelings going through his mind about something painful which has moved him deeply and kept him from sleep, just as happened to Abu at-Tayyib [al-Mutanabbi, 915-965 AD] in Sayf ad-Dawlah's time.

Whatever our analysis of the ramifications of this ode, we believe that Dr Ghazi wanted to recover something he had lost or that the people had lost — peace of mind and confidence in the person or persons who sincerely love him. He is trying to secure this love, and we hope that the minister's ode achieves what he wants:

A thousand slanderers are chattering between us,
so how can I keep on singing?

My voice is fading and you don't hear its echo,
yet I have known you to have been delighted when I recited.

I see you among the crowds, yet I don't see
that smile spreading over your face.

Your eye goes over me and rushes by just like
the stranger who passes by, a frightened man, dashing along.

A thousand slanderers have come between us with lies,
but you keep on listening to them and haven't accused them of lying.

They deceived you and the deceit pleased you,
yet never before have you been pleased with perfumed falsehood.

The Almighty made hearts storehouses for feelings
which have not ceased being changeable.

Tell the slanderers, "I have come bearing my white flag,
so try to get at me and strike me down."

I am not good at entering these battles;
who would fight when his adversary is a fox?

Who would be a combatant when the weapon is intrigue?
Who would do battle when the enemy is a scorpion?

A man does not deign to sully his sword;
a brave man will triumph at the moment he is overcome.

By dawn the deserts will embrace my riding camels;
when a free man becomes exasperated, he escapes.

The desert is more generous, though its gifts are not always abundant; when it listens to slanderers it becomes barren.

The desert is friendlier than a friend
whose love is changeable, fickle, vacillating.

I will fill the ears of the winds with my odes.
I neither expect a reward nor will I receive one.

I will create my epics on the banks of a mirage,
for when one has honor, a mirage can be drunk.

The separation has come, so shall I bid farewell in silence,
or will you listen to my reproach?

Reproach will not revive a love that is being killed,
nor should currying favor put up obstacles to it.

Sire, in my heart is a wound complicated by love;
when longing touches it, it pours out.

Sire, injustice is not pleasant,
but if it pleased you, it would be desirable.

Mercenary odes will be recited about you,
for the hungry sycophants are readying themselves.

The claim of love will move on their lips,
but Ash'ab [a greedy person] moves in their hearts.

A pen that can be bought and sold will not go straight,
nor can a reed write with the blood of prisons.

I am a poet of the world; my poetry has penetrated its surface
and goes east and west across it.

I am a poet of the heavens; each tiny word of mine
will blaze in the twilight of eternity.

Foreign Minister Meets With Austria's Erwin Lanc

LD151243 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0930 GMT 15 Apr 84

[Text] Riyadh, 15 Apr (SPA) — Foreign Minister His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal met this morning with Austrian Foreign Minister Erwin Lanc. Ma'mun Qabbani, director of the Western Department at the Foreign Ministry; Yusif Matbaqani, the Kingdom's ambassador to Austria; 'Umar Kurdi, director of bilateral relations in the economic section at the Foreign Ministry; and Dr Khalid al-Janran, councillor at the foreign minister's office, were present at the meeting from the Saudi side, and Anton Prohaska, Austrian ambassador to the Kingdom; [name indistinct], chief of the foreign minister's office; [name indistinct], director general of economic affairs at the Foreign Ministry; and the accompanying delegation were present from the Austrian side.

Foreign Minister His Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal told SPA that his talks with the Austrian minister included everything that interests the two friendly countries, particularly the situation in the Middle East and bilateral relations between the Kingdom and Austria.

His Highness explained that the points of view were similar concerning the Middle East, pointing out that Austria has an important traditional role in supporting the rights of the Palestinian people.

His highness mentioned that he and the Austrian minister reviewed the developments in bilateral relations in various fields and added that they discussed the economic and cultural agreements that the two countries are expected to conclude in order to support and consolidate the cooperation in those fields.

YAR Foreign Minister Al-Asbahi Departs Jidda

LD141058 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0900 GMT 14 Apr 8

[Text] Jidda, 14 Apr (SPA) — YAR Foreign Minister Dr Ahmad Muhammad al-Asbahi left Jidda for Abu Dhabi today. He was seen off by the deputy head of protocol at the Foreign Ministry, Husayn Marzuqi, the YAR ambassador to the Kingdom, and a number of officials.

PLO Commando Acts in Palestine Hailed

LD151338 Riyadh SPA in English 1203 GMT 15 Apr 84

[Text] Riyadh, April 16, SPA — Saudi newspapers in their editorial comments hailed the Palestinian commandos' operations inside occupied Palestine and emphasised the need to escalate such operations to "teach the Israelis a lesson that they would never forget."

'UKAZ said the Palestinian struggle would continue despite any Zionist threats or retaliatery operations. "Israel must learn the lesson and fully understand that Palestinian struggle will never be afraid of troops mobilization or aircraft uproar," the paper added.

AL-BILAD said it was not strange that Israel mounts retaliation against Arab inhabitants inside the occupied Palestine after every commando operation. The paper said the public opinion had repeatedly condemned the Israeli oppression on Arab inhabitants and Arab action should make use of this to gain more support to the Palestinian cause.

AR-RIYAD paid tribute to the heroic struggle of the Palestinian people inside the occupied territories. The paper said there was no other alternative for the armed struggle against the aggressor.

AL-JAZIRAH, commending the heroic operations of the Palestinian commandos inside occupied Palestine, said Israel had used to fight its battles with Arabs on Arab territories so it always escaped the aftermath of these battles, but this time the Palestinian operations in Tel Aviv and Jerusalem had turned upside down the balance. The paper said the latest operations had proved that Israelis were not immune against such operations and that Palestinian hand could extend to strike at the Israeli depth.

AL-YAWM said the latest two daring commando operations proved the failure of Israeli military intervention in Lebanon because this intervention had never been able to stop the Palestinian military activities whatsoever brutal tactics it had used against the Palestinians.

The paper said the last operations had refuted Israeli claims that their invasion of Lebanon was aimed at putting an end to the Palestinian operations. It said Israel knows well that it could not enjoy peace as long as it occupies Arab land and displaces a whole nation.

AL-MADINA deplored the "Zionist dirty conspiracy" against Holy Jerusalem. The paper said Jerusalem was not an Arab or Islamic issue but a cultural and human one and the civilized community should ask itself till what time it will remain as silent observer to Israeli provocations in the Holy City.

The paper said global efforts to seek implementation of the principles of peace and cooperation among the nations will have no meaning if Israel continues to remain a violater of principles of cultural behavior and refuses to recognise the rights of the Palestinian people.

UAE

President Congratulates Chernenko on Election

GF141545 Abu Dhabi Domestic Service in Arabic 1530 GMT 14 Apr 84

[Text] His highness the president, Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan, has sent a congratulatory cable to Konstantin Chernenko on his election as chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium.

U.S. State Department Official Arrives in Abu Dhabi

GF160700 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0630 GMT 16 Apr 84

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 16 Apr (WAKH) — Richard Murphy, U.S. assistant secretary of state for Middle East affairs, arrived in Abu Dhabi today on a brief visit to the UAE as part of a tour he is undertaking to a number of Arab countries.

During his visit, Murphy will hold talks with senior UAE officials on the situation in the Middle East and on bilateral relations.

Reportage on Visit of YAR Foreign Minister

Al-Asbahi Arrives 14 Apr

GF141250 Abu Dhabi Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 14 Apr 84

[Excerpt] YAR Foreign Affairs Minister Muhammad al-Asbahi arrived in the country this afternoon on a visit to the UAE to attend the meetings of the second session of the coordination council of the two countries which will begin in Abu Dhabi tomorrow. The meetings are intended to strengthen and further bilateral relations, particularly in the economic field, and to discuss a number of issues of common interest and latest Arab developments.

'Abdallah Receives Al-Asbahi

GF151140 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0915 GMT 15 Apr 84

[Excerpt] Abu Dhabi, 15 Apr (WAKH) — UAE Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Rashid 'Abdallah met here today with YAR Foreign Affairs Minister Ahmad Muhammad al-Asbahi.

During the meeting, bilateral relations and particularly the terms which will be discussed by the coordination council of the two countries later today were discussed.

Council Session Begins

GF151144 Abu Dhabi Domestic Service in Arabic 0930 GMT 15 Apr 84

[Text] The third session of the coordination council of the UAE and the YAR began at the Foreign Ministry building today.

The UAE side to this session is chaired by Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Rashid 'Abdallah, while the YAR side is being chaired by YAR Foreign Affairs Minister Ahmad Muhammad al-Asbahi.

Foreign Ministers Assess Talks
GF151402 Abu Dhabi Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 15 Apr 84

[Excerpts] The meetings of the third session of the UAE-YAR coordination council began at the foreign ministry today.

After the meeting, a responsible source at the Foreign Ministry stated that the two sides reviewed bilateral relations and means of furthering and strengthening them and discussed the current Arab developments and the Palestinian cause in general and the situation in the Gulf region in particular. The source said that Rashid 'Abdallah noted during the discussion of the political situation the developments in the Iraqi-Iranian war and the efforts the UAE has made to end this war. He indicated that the UAE has called on the two belligerant parties not to expand the war to stave off the intervention of superpowers in the region and that it called on them to end the war through an Islamic spirit.

YAR Foreign Minister Ahmad Muhammad al-Asbahi noted during the meeting his country's concern with the continuation of this war. He affirmed that the YAR is an indivisible part of the Arab Peninsula and the Gulf and that this war affects the YAR just as it affects the other Gulf countries. He expressed the hope that more efforts will be made to stop the war between Iraq and Iran.

During the meeting, the YAR minister explained the mission of the follow-up committee which arose from the Arab foreign ministers' meeting which was held recently in Baghdad, his country being a member in this committee, and the contacts it has made with a number of countries where its mission is devoted to find means to prevent the continuation of the Iraqi-Iranian war.

On the Arab situation, the Palestinian cause and the possibility of holding an Arab summit an an early time, Rashid 'Abdallah emphasized the need to rise above Arab differences and enhance Arab solidarity to prepare the atmosphere for holding the expected Arab summit. He expressed optimism over the improvement of relations between the two Yemens and the efforts the two governments are making to establish a firm basis of joint cooperation. He emphasized the need for enhancing and furthering relations between the UAE and the YAR in a way that serves the interests of the two fraternal countries.

PDRY Finance Minister Arrives in Abu Dhabi
GF141253 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1200 GMT 14 Apr 84

[Excerpt] Abu Dhabi, 14 Apr (WAKH) — PDRY Finance Minister Mahmud Sa'id al-Mahdi arrived here this afternoon. He is accompanied by a delegation which includes the deputy finance minister and the central bank governor. They will attend the meetings of the joint Arab finance bodies which will be held on Tuesday.

PDRY

YSP Official Returns From Syria, Algeria
GF140500 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 13 Apr 84

[Excerpt] Brother 'Abd al-Ghani 'Abd al-Qadir, member of the Political Bureau and secretary of the Central Committee, returned to Aden today after concluding visits to Syria and Algeria, during which he conveyed two messages from Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee and chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Council, to his brother Hafiz al-Asad, secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party in Syria and president of the Syrian Arab Republic, and to Brother Chadli Bendjedid, secretary general of the Algerian National Liberation Movement and president of the Democratic and Popular Republic of Algeria.

In statement to ANA, Brother 'Abd al-Ghani 'Abd al-Qadir described his visits to the two fraternal countries as being positive and as contributing in continuing and in cementing the relations between fraternal Syria and Algeria. Moreover, these visits helped in coordinating the joint efforts in supporting the Arab liberation and progress issues and in confronting all sorts of imperialist, Zionist, and reactionary plots which are aimed at rupturing the unity of the PLO and harming its prestige and role as the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

YAR

President Salih Receives Soviet Leaders' Message
GF151800 San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 15 Apr 84

[Text] Brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president and commander in chief of the Armed Forces and secretary general of the General People's Congress, today received Oleg Peresypkin, the Soviet ambassador in San'a', who conveyed a message from the Soviet leaders to the brother leader and secretary general of the General People's Congress.

Foreign Minister Leaves for Council Meeting in UAE
GF131751 San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 13 Apr 84

[Excerpt] Dr Ahmad al-Asbahi, foreign affairs minister and secretary of the Standing Committee, left for Abu Dhabi today on a visit to the UAE. During the visit he will participate in the sessions of the joint coordination council between our country and the UAE.

Nomination for Assembly Elections to Begin 14 Apr
NC131115 Cairo MENA in English 1032 GMT 13 Apr 84

[Text] Cairo, April 13 (MENA) — Nomination to the People's Assembly elections would start tomorrow and runs for ten days.

The forthcoming parliamentary elections will witness competition by six parties, namely, the National Democratic Party; the New Al-Wafd Party; the Socialist Labour Party; the Unionist Progressive Grouping Party; the Socialist Liberals Party; and Al-Ummah Party.

Obtaining eight per cent of the total valid votes at the republic level is one of the conditions for representation in the Egyptian parliament. The party that fails to realise this percentage would not be represented.

The parliamentary elections acquire a special importance as they are the first general elections in Egypt following the amendment introduced to the Constitution on May 22, 1980 providing for the multiplicity of parties. These elections are also the first parliamentary elections since President Husni Mubarak ascended to power on October 14, 1981. The government affirmed that it would ensure that the election be held in complete freedom.

Socialist Liberal Party's Deputy Leader Resigns
NC132042 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2018 GMT 13 Apr 84

[Excerpt] Cairo, 13 Apr (MENA) — Riyad Mu'awwad, deputy leader of the Socialist Liberal Party, has resigned. Mu'awwad said he is not thinking of joining any party at present.

AS-SIYASI Cited on Plan To End Iran-Iraq War
NC151042 Cairo MENA in English 1025 GMT 15 Apr 84

[Text] Cairo, 15 Apr (MENA) — The Egyptian plan to end the Iran-Iraq war will comprise several principles, including the following:

— Ending the current hostilities;
— Calling on the belligerents to sit to the negotiating table;
— Proposing economic indemnities for the losses caused by the war which is about to end its fourth year.

The Cairo weekly *AS-SIYASI* said that the Egyptian plan would shortly be announced after it is presented to the concerned parties through diplomatic and political channels. Meanwhile, the weekly paper said that intensive efforts will be made in the United Nations and the Security Council to canvass support for the Egyptian initiative.

Soviet Official Arrives To Discuss Relations
NC160526 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2234 GMT 15 Apr 84

[Text] Cairo, 15 Apr (MENA) — Vladimir Vladimirovich Polyakov, director of the Middle East desk at the Soviet Foreign Ministry [name and title as received], arrived this evening in Cairo for visit of several days to Egypt.

During the visit, the Soviet ambassador will meet with Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, and with Foreign Ministry officials to discuss bilateral relations and matters of interest to both countries.

The Soviet official was greeted upon arrival by Ambassador Hasan Qandil, director of the Eastern Europe desk at the Foreign Ministry.

Minister Views Trade Relations With Soviet Envoy
NC151438 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1420 GMT 15 Apr 84

[Text] Cairo, 15 Apr (MENA) — Today Dr Mustafa as-Sa'id, minister of economy and foreign trade, and the Soviet trade counsellor in Cairo discussed economic and trade relations between the two countries and the best ways to maintain the increase in the volume of trade between Egypt and the Soviet Union which has been achieved over the past 2 years.

The volume of trade between Egypt and the Soviet Union in 1982-83 totaled 273 million pounds, compared to 249 million pounds in 1981-82. It is noteworthy that Egyptian exports to the Soviet Union increased in 1982-83 to 159.5 million pounds, compared to 145 million pounds in 1981-82.

Soviets To Help Renovate Glass Factories
NC161106 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1026 GMT 16 Apr 84

[Excerpt] Cairo, 16 Apr (MENA) — The Soviet Union has agreed to take part in a project for renovating the Yasin glass factories. These factories — run by the General Corporation for Glass and Crystal — will be importing modern equipment to improve and increase production.

Corporation director engineer 'Abd al-Karim said a Soviet industrial delegation will arrive in Cairo at the end of next week to discuss the project with Egyptian Industrialization Authority officials and to submit the concomitant feasibility studies.

French Naval Units Make Courtesy Visit
NC141442 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1418 GMT 14 Apr 84

[Text] Alexandria, 14 Apr (MENA) — Three French naval units today arrived in Alexandria Harbor for a week-long courtesy visit. These units include the aircraft carrier *Clemenceau*; the missile launcher frigate *Suffrein*; and the supply ship *Aberwach*. All these ships are under the command of Admiral Klotz, commander of the French Naval Air Force.

The formation commander laid a wreath at the unknown soldier mausoleum in Al-Manshiyah Square. He also called on Major General Muhammad Fawzi Mu'adh, governor of Alexandria; Rear Admiral 'Ali Tawfiq Jad, Naval Forces commander; and Major General Mamduh Khalifah, commander of the northern military area. The formation commander will also visit the city's tourist and archeological sites.

Ghali Returns To Cairo From Geneva 13 Apr

NC132040 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2007 GMT 13 Apr 84

[Excerpt] Cairo, 13 Apr (MENA) Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, this evening returned to Cairo from Geneva at the end of a 5-day visit to Luxembourgand Geneva, during which he attended the meeting of the Egyptian-EEC Cooperation Council and the meeting of the UN commission on refugees.

Mubarak Congratulates North Korea, Niger Leaders

NC141454 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1147 GMT 14 Apr 84

[Text] Cairo, 14 Apr (MENA) — President Muhammad Husni Mubarak sent the following congratulatory cable to President Kim Il-song, president of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, on his birthday. Following is the text of the cable:

I am pleased to send Your Excellency sincerest, heartfelt congratulations on the occasion of your happy birthday wishing you a long, healthy, and happy life. With my sincerest greetings to you personally and my hope for more progress and prosperity for the fraternal Korean people.

The president also sent the following congratulatory cable to President Seyni Kountche, chairman of the Supreme Military Council and head of the state of Niger on the anniversary of the Army's assumption of power:

I am pleased to send Your Excellency the sincerest heartfelt congratulations on the anniversary of the Army's assumption of power, wishing you the best of health and happiness and continued progress and prosperity for your fraternal people.

AL-AHRAM Views U.S. Attitude Toward UNESCO

PM131514 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 10 Apr 84 p 5

[Mustafa Sami report from Paris: "Chairman of Group of 77 at UNESCO Tells *AL-AHRAM*: Pressure on UNESCO Increasing; Story of U.S. Withdrawal and Recent UNESCO Fire"]

[Excerpts] Some 4 days after the fire that gutted some of the equipment in the UNESCO building in Paris, which French security sources said was "perpetrated by criminal hands," the UNESCO director general held an extraordinary meeting which was attended by a large number of representatives to the organization.

The director general told those present that he is following up investigations and will take all necessary steps in cooperation with the French authorities in order to solve this crime.

Whose are the hands that placed explosives in the building to set it on fire? Do these hands have any connection to the memorandum which members of the Western group submitted a few days before the fire demanding changes? Is there a connection between what happened and U.S. withdrawal from UNESCO announced in September last year?

All UNESCO member states and indeed all those employed in the organization are aware that the attitude of the poor Third World countries hurts the feelings of the big and rich countries. In other words, the rich countries of the north no longer tolerate the boldness of the southern poor who come from Africa, Asia, and Latin America. The interests and views of the small ones are at variance with the interests and views of the big ones.

Despite the fact that the international organization is concerned with cultural, scientific, and educational affairs and that it is not its business to be involved in political issues and international conflicts, it has become difficult to draw a line between the two areas.

Examples are numerous. In regard to the Palestinian problem the organization sided with justice when it discussed educational, cultural, and human rights matters. It condemned the measures to Judaize Jerusalem, the disfigurement of the city's archeological sites, the attack on Al-Aqsa Mosque by the fanatical racists, the attack on students, the closure of universities in the occupied territories, the tampering with school curricula, and the spreading of racist ideas among schoolchildren. Do not these matters concern human rights and cultural and educational matters?

But this does not agree with the views of the Western group and is opposed by the Western media, most of which are manipulated by the Zionists and financed by Jewish funds in Europe and the United States.

The hands that were behind the fire exposed themselves only hours after the incident. Before the French security authorities had completed their investigations, the organs supporting Israel and Zionism declared that the fire had destroyed the files on the organization's budget, its expenditures, and its employees. This has forced the UNESCO director general to deny it within 24 hours in a statement he issued to the press in Paris.

The objective of the Zionist media behind this report was to embarass the director general before the arrival of the U.S. investigating committee to discuss the organization's budget, expenditures, and staff affairs.

What are the facts behind the accusations that have led to U.S. withdrawal and what are the views of the Third World countries on them?

Is this withdrawal and are these pressures connected with last week's fire?

This week I met with Ambassador 'Aziz Haydar, head of the Iraqi delegation and chairman of the Group of 77 (as the Third World countries are known in international organizations).

He explained the views of the Group of 77 which he represents and his personal views regarding the conspiracies and campaigns against UNESCO with the aim of destroying it.

I asked Ambassador Haydar: What are the reasons behind the U.S. withdrawal from UNESCO and would this decision encourage other Western countries to follow the U.S. example in order

to do away with the organization finally and is this a warning to other organizations?

Answer: With regard to the U.S. decision, the target is not only UNESCO. It is a political attitude toward the United Nationsas a whole and toward the Third World in particular. Gregory Newell, assistant secretary of state for international organizations' affairs submitted a memorandum to the U.S. Administration several months ago recommending withdrawal, and it was on this basis that the administration made its decision.

The problem for them is the U.S. leading role at the United Nations, which hasceased to exist since the beginning of the sixties. Withdrawal from UNESCO will probably reflect on the U.S. role in the other the UN organizations.

Question: Will this not lead to isolating the United States from the Third World?

Answer: U.S. policy prefers bilateral cooperation; it prefers to have relations with each developing country separately. Through such an arrangement it can dictate certain terms that agree with its interests, whereas the aid given to UNESCO is unconditional.

They want to attain intellectual positions. [as published] They have chosen UNESCO in order to punish and terrorize other international organizations.

This U.S. attitude was echoed in statements by the U.S. delegate to the United Nations a few months ago when she welcomed moving the UN headquarters outside the United States. President Reagan supported these statements.

Question: Are there secret forces that have played a role in the adoption of the U.S. withdrawal decision?

Answer: the Western media and particularly the U.S. media, the majority of which is controlled by Zionist capital and influence, have played a basic role in exerting pressure on the U.S. Administration to make this decision. They waged a campaign against UNESCO alleging that it is against press freedom, although they did not offer a single fact to substantiate their claim. They did not want UNESCO to discuss the Western media's monopoly of news sources to establish balance and justice in the world media.

There is also the Zionist lobby, which played a principal role through its infiltration of the U.S. Administration and its influence on the Western media. This was because of the just stand which UNESCO adopted toward the Palestinian problem.

Question: Could not the U.S. withdrawal decision be simply a tactic to put pressure on the Third World countries to reconsider their policy, or is it a final decision?

Answer: My personal opinion is that the U.S. decision at this stage is almost final because they aim at the previous political decisions [as published] which cannot possibly be imposed on the organization. But they are also expecting other Western countries to withdraw unless what they call "drastic changes in UNESCO" take place.

Question: What about last week's fire? Is it connected with this?

Answer: The fire cannot be separated from the tense situation created by the U.S. withdrawal decision and the biased and intensive campaign against UNESCO and the atmosphere of slander and hatred it creates. This atmosphere encourages such crimes. In any case the forces that have an interest in the occurrence of such incidents and the confusion and instability they create are the Zionist forces.

Press Comments on Israeli Bus Hijacking Cited

NC150624 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0520 GMT 15 Apr 84

[From the press review]

[Text] Reactions and comments continue on the hijacking of an Israeli bus by a Palestinian fedayeen group, the Israeli forces' storming of the bus, the martyrdom of the fedayeen group, and the death or wounding of eight Israelis.

AL-JUMHURIYAH expresses its belief that the most important dimension of the Palestinian fedayeen operation might be the admission by General Moshe Levy, the Israeli chief of staff, that the Palestinian fedayeen did not come from outside Israel but were from the occupied Arab territories, and that they organized themselves and obtained their weapons inside Israel. *AL-JUMHURIYAH* points out at the end of its editorial that the Israeli admission that the fedayeen operation was organized inside the occupied territories recalls the following fundamental fact: The existence of an occupied land with a people living under the yoke of occupation. This is a fact that Israel wants to forget.

Commenting on the same issue, *AL-AKHBAR* discusses what these fedayeen operations signify and what Israel and Israeli officials must understand from them. It emphasizes that these operations are proof that peoples do not die and that those who have a right will never be quiet. Israel understands that the Palestinians have legitimate rights in their land, Palestine, and that they will sooner or later obtain them.

Concluding its editorial, *AL-AKHBAR* calls on the Israeli Government, whether the present or the next one, to review the policy of strength and to consider the expression of a clearer desire for peace and stability. The paper adds that words are not enough here, and must be accompanied by deeds and good intentions towards the restoration of legitimate rights to their rightful owners.

Violent Anti-Israeli Incidents Could Recur

NC140642 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0525 GMT 14 Apr 84

[From the press review]

[Excerpts] On yesterday's Palestinian fedayeen operation, *AL-JUMHURIYAH* says: This operation reaffirms that there is

no power in the world that can guarantee to Israel that such, and more violent operations will not be repeated or increased so long as it persists in not recognizing the Palestinian people's rights to regain their territories in the West Bank and Gaza, and establish an independent state like all other peoples on earth. *AL-JUMHURIYAH* adds: By insisting on rejecting Palestinian legitimate rights, Israel appears as if it is ready to go to the end of the world backed up by continued U.S. military and material aid. *AL-JUMHURIYAH* affirms: On the other hand, there is no power on earth that can prevent the Palestinian people from utilizing all means to regain their rights, which were recognized by nearly the entire world, even by popular votes inside the United States itself, and by some in the U.S. Administration.

AL-JUMHURIYAH concludes its article by saying: If it is normal for Israeli propaganda to describe yesterday's incident as an act of terrorism, the Palestinian people have the right to describe Israel's denial of their rights, backed by the force of U.S. guns and aircraft, as armed terrorism, unprecendented in the history of mankind.

Israeli Bus Hijacking: Reaction From 'Inside'

NC151451 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 15 Apr 84

[Bahiy ad-Din Shu'ayb commentary: "The Series of Terrorism Between Action and Reaction"]

[Text] In retaliation for the hijacking of a bus, Israeli authorities were quick to blow up the houses of the families of the four Palestinian fedayeen who carried out the hijacking. This summary action demonstrates how the Israeli state, with all its departments and institutions, is exercising forms of terrorism, the likes of which cannot be carried out by individuals hostile to it. Therefore, the suicidal operation carried out by Palestinians in Jerusalem and later their hijacking of a bus and the holding of 30 passengers hostage for over 10 hours — all these suicidal Palestinian operations are indications that the Palestinian people can no longer tolerate the actions the Israeli authorities take against them. These suicidal operations intensified after Israel invaded Lebanon, after it besieged Palestinian resistance in West Beirut, after the Sabra and Shatila massacres, and after Israel began implementing its plan to pursue the Palestinian resistance.

In reaction to the escalated Israeli terrorism, several suicidal operations were carried out, culminating in the bombing of the U.S. and French forces' command headquarters in Beirut as well as the Israeli forces' command headquarters in Tyre and Sidon, in addition to successive daily operations that left hundreds dead or wounded. These suicidal operations prove that it is almost impossible to check them, and that all the security measures taken cannot prevent a suicidal fedayeen from carrying out a specific operation.

However, the most serious aspect of the Jerusalem and bus hijacking operations is that those who planned these operations came from inside Israel. It is for this reason that the Israeli authorities were quick to inflict collective punishment on the families of the bus hijackers. Nevertheless, Israel does not wish to recognize the reality it has created, and for this reason it is trying to put the blame on others. Israeli leaders said that the tide of terrorism in the area has increased in a horrible manner, that Damascus has become the seat of terrorism, and that all terrorist operations are carried out with the knowledge of the Syrian authorities.

The fact of the matter is that the prevailing state of tension in the area can no longer be remedied by Israel accusing everybody of terrorism. If anything, logic compels the Israeli authorities to recognize the real reasons that led to the escalation of terrorism, because to disregard these reasons will only lead to more suicidal operations. Therefore, Israeli authorities must understand that their practices against the Palestinians and the denial of their legitimate rights is the main reason for all the tension and terrorism that is taking place in the area.

Israeli authorities refuse to withdraw from the occupied Arab territories. They regard them as liberated Israeli territories. They continue to expel the Arab inhabitants and to build more settlements. They also deal with the Palestinian issue on the basis that the only punishment the Palestinians deserve is death, and therefore, the inhabitants of the occupied territories cannot be anything but workers, exploited by the Israeli economy. For this reason, the more the Israeli authorities escalate their intransigence vis-a-vis the Palestinian people and the more they deny them their rights, the more violent the Palestinian reaction will be.

Shamir Statements, U.S. Policy Criticized

NC131433 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 13 Apr 84

[Usamah 'Abd al-Ghani commentary: "Consequences of Israel's Limited View of the Peace Concept"]

[Text] Israel's concept of peace is based on two things: settlements and the pursuit of the forces that might threaten the settlement policy. Hence, the Israeli Government described the invasion of Lebanon as the Peace for Galilee Operation; that is, as providing security for the dwellers of the northern Israeli settlements through the pursuit of the Palestinian fedayeen who might threaten the stability of the Israelis in that area. Israel's concept of peace is not of a comprehensive peace involving a number of peoples who are neighbours in a certain area, but of peace for the Israeli people, wherever they live, even if in occupied territories.

This might shed light on the reason why Israel killed the Palestinian fedayeen who seized a bus last night and the other fedayeen who carried out an operation in Jerusalem almost 2 weeks ago. These two events clarify some important matters: First, that the Israeli settlement policy has become a strong incentive for Palestinian fedayeen action and that this action is no longer limited to one area and not another; and second, that fabricating pretexts to isolate south Lebanon is no longer a matter whose real dimensions will remain hidden.

Following the termination of the fedayeen operation by force early this morning, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir stated that its end proved that those who carried out the operation had no hope of attaining their objectives. It is Shamir's opinion that

the Palestinians could not achieve an objective through negotiations when they demanded the release of some Palestinian prisoners in return for the release of the hostages in the hijacked bus. It is Shamir's opinion, then, that all Israeli objectives can only be achieved by force.

It is known that Israel relies primarily on U.S. financial and military assistance to achieve its power. In return, Washington's policy in the Middle East is centered on unreserved support forIsrael. Washington adopts Tel Aviv's viewpoints even if these threaten peace and stability in the area. For example, this policy has failed to stop the building of settlements, even though this runs counter to Israel's obligations stemming from the peace treaties, even though these policies violate international law and contradict efforts to bring peace to the area.

The danger of U.S. Middle East policy, which Israel is exploiting in the worst manner, is not limited to this region. Washington's adherence to this policy prompts the Soviet Union, the superpower competing with the United States, to adhere to a policy of support for the forces in the area hostile to Israel. It is as if Washington, with its policy of support for Israel and its limited concept of peace, is driving us and the entire area to the turmoil of the East-West conflict.

Tariq 'Aziz Calls on Europe To Deter Israel

JN131551 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1450 GMT 13 Apr 84

[Text] Baghdad, 13 Apr (INA) — Tariq 'Aziz, Iraqi deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has called on EEC countries to assume their responsibilities in deterring the Zionist aggressor from implementing its schemes, aggression, and expansion in the region which pose the gravest threat to world peace and security.

In a letter he sent today to Claude Cheysson, French minister of external relations, Tariq 'Aziz drew the EEC countries' attention to the intensive campaign Western information media are launching against Iraq, a campaign which is affected by Zionism. Tariq 'Aziz said that in addition to being a campaign of blatant hatred against Iraq, this campaign also contains official and semiofficial news about a possible military blow against scientific and industrial installations in Iraq. Tariq 'Aziz referred in a specific manner to what Western information organs have disseminated about the threats directed against Iraq, threats which these organs have attributed to ranking officials in the U.S. Administration, the Department of State, the Department of Defense, and the Central Intelligence Agency. 'Aziz also pointed out that the threats launched against Iraq had also referred to U.S.-Israeli contacts at the highest levels on the possibility of carrying out air raids to strike specific targets in Iraq, linking this to the raid Israel carried out against the Iraqi nuclear installations in 1981.

Tariq 'Aziz added that the Israeli aggression against Iraqi nuclear installations specifically devoted to peaceful purposes, aggression which had been condemned by the international community in the UN Security Council, the UN General Assembly, the IAEA, and other international forums, had been preceded by a campaign similar to the one that is currently under way and on the same bases and fabricated justifications.

Tariq 'Aziz said that Iraq, which has been defending itself against aggression for nearly 4 years in order to attain peace and security in the region and achieve international cooperation on an equal footing, draws the attention of the international community and, more specifically, the European countries, to these hostile schemes and intentions. Iraq calls on them to expose their true motives because Israel, which is providing the Iranian regime with weapons and seeing by every means to prolong the war and exploit it for its designs of expansion, carried out its aggression against Iraq in 1981 in similar circumstances and under a similar cover which it is now trying to fabricate, particularly since elections in Israel are close as had been the case in 1981.

Minister Warns Israelis

JN151422 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1350 GMT 15 Apr 84

[Text] Baghdad, 15 Apr (INA) — Iraq has announced that it is completely ready to reply strongly to any foolish action against its scientific and economic installations by the Zionist entity. Stating this to INA today, Culture and Information Minister Latif Nusayyif Jasim added: Iraq possesses the power and capability to respond to the source of aggression regardless of its form and nature.

He indicated that all the signs in the Zionist media point to a climate similar to the one created by Zionism before the Tammuz reactor was attacked in 1981.

The Iraqi minister emphasized that the Zionist entity is preparing for a crazy action against Iraq, taking advantage of Iraq's preoccupation with the Iranian regime at the eastern front. He stressed that Iraq will not ignore or forget the current coordination taking place between the Zionist entity and Iran and those Arabs supporting them.

The Iraqi information minister drew the attention of Arab and world public to this fact and appealed to them to condemn the Zionist schemes that are aimed against the Arab nation's progress.

Peace Council Warns of 'Strike' Against Iraq

JN141611 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1500 GMT 14 Apr 84

[Text] Baghdad — The Iraqi Peace and Solidarity Council has called on the world peace and solidarity councils and the forces of peace and freedom in the world to exercise their decisive, serious role in facing, exposing, and condemning the hostile schemes.

In a letter to Ramesh Chandra, chairman of the World Peace Council, and 'Abd ar-Rahman ash-Sharqawi, chairman of AAPSO, 'Isam 'Abd 'Ali, deputy secretary general of the Iraqi Peace and Solidarity Council, stressed the need for the two organizations and their national committees to shoulder their historical and moral responsibilities in confronting the fierce imperialist-Zionist onslaught, which is encouraging the spiteful Iranian regime's aggression in spreading its hegemony and implementing its hostile schemes against the peoples of the region and the world. 'Ali pointed out that despite its open, peaceful, and positive stand, Iraq is being exposed to a well-planned, unjust campaign which is being organized by well known imperialist circles that lack moral and humanitarian constraints, in cooperation with the Zionist entity. They are exploiting the nature and policy of the demented Iranian regime in order to provoke rancor and the spirit of aggression with the aim of implementing their aggressive plans by coordination between the warmongers in the U.S. Administration on the one hand, and some suspect Western circles so as to mount a Zionist military strike on Iraq's scientific and industrial installations.

Armed Forces Command Issues Communiques

No 1,434 - 13 April

JN131641 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1605 GMT 13 Apr 84

[Communique No 1,434 issued by Armed Forces General Command on 13 April]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. With splendid steadfastness and heroic enthusiasm our valiant Armed Forces continue their activities against the unjust enemy forces.

The results for yesterday evening and today are as follows:

1. Our forward units pounded enemy positions, troop concentrations, and equipment opposite their positions east of Basra with all types of weapons, killing 21, wounding many, and destroying one 106-mm gun, three excavators, one antiaircraft gun, and one infantry position whose occupants were killed.

2. Our capable aircraft belonging to our Air Force today carried out daring and successful raids against enemy positions and troop concentrations in the areas opposite our forward units positions east of Basra and in the central sector of the battlefield, scoring very effective hits, and inflicting on the enemy huge losses in life and equipment. The hero eagles of the air returned with their aircraft safely to base, praise be to God. Our aircraft carried out 146 combat missions today.

3. Our daring helicopter gunships raided enemy positions and troop concentrations east of Basra, scoring accurate hits, and inflicting on the enemy losses in life and equipment. Known enemy losses amount to nine troop concentrations; two vehicles, one of which was carrying a 106-mm gun; and 1 machine gun position destroyed. The hero knights of our helicopters returned safely to base, praise be to God. Our helicopter gunships carried out 19 combat missions.

4. Three were killed, two boats carrying personnel, and one vehicle were destroyed in the east Tigris operational sector.

5. One was killed, and one gun was destroyed in the central sector of the battlefield.

6. The clique of evil and aggression today shelled Basra, Mandali, Sayyid Sadiq, and (Shandri) and its suburbs with heavy artillery. As a result of the enemy shelling, one civilian was wounded in Basra; one was martyred, four civilians were wounded, and two houses were damaged in Mandali; and several civilian installations were damaged in Sayyid Sadiq and (Shandri).

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 13 April 1984

No 1,435 - 14 April

JN141642 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 14 Apr 84

[Communique No 1,435 issued by Armed Forces General Command on 14 April]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Our heroic Armed Forces are continuing to defend great Iraq and to bravely confront the covetous aggressors. The results for last night and today are as follows:

1. Our forward units pounded enemy positions and troop movements opposite their positions east of Basra inflicting 35 dead and others wounded. Our forces destroyed two vehicles, one 106-mm gun, one boat, three hardware stockpiles, two heavey machine guns, and one observation post.

2. Our daring fighter aircraft today attacked enemy units, positions, and concentrations opposite our brave units' positions east of Basra inflicting massive damage and grave losses. Other formations of our planes raided enemy concentrations and troop assembly points in the central sector scoring direct, effective hits. All our planes returned safely to base, praise be to God.

3. Our helicopters today carried out effective attacks against enemy positions and troop assembly points east of Basra. They destroyed eight personnel assembly points and a number of weapons and equipment. All our helicopters returned safely to base, praise be to God.

4. One gun was destroyed in the central sector.

5. One was killed in the Maysan sector.

6. One infantry position was destroyed and one enemy position was set ablaze east of Tigris.

7. One infantry position was destroyed in the northern sector.

8. The artillery of the wicked Khomeyniite regime last night and today shelled Basra, Mandali, Zurbatiyah, and Khurmal and their environs. The shelling injured a child and damaged two houses and one civilian car in Basra; damaged two houses and an intermediate school in Mandali; and damaged a number of civilian establishments in Khurmal and Zurbatiyah.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 14 April 1984

No 1,436 - 15 April

JN151622 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 15 Apr 84

[Communique No 1,436 issued by Armed Forces General Command on 15 April]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. In defense of the homeland, principles, and sovereignty, our brave Armed Forces are continuing their activities against the forces of the tyrannical Khomeyniite enemy. The results for yesterday evening and today are as follows:

1. Our brave forward units opened fire from all types of weapons on a concentration of enemy troops and vehicles opposite our positions east of Basra, killing 13, wounding others, and destroying three vehicles, one boat, one hardware stockpile, and one observation post.

2. The valiant sky hawks today carried out effective attacks on the enemy positions, units, and concentrations in the two operational areas east of Basra and east of Maysan, inflicting large losses in men and equipment. They returned safely to base with their aircraft, praise be to God.

3. The brave knights of our helicopter gunships today attacked enemy positions and troop concentrations in the two operational areas east of Basra and east of Tigris, inflicting losses in men and equipment. The known losses amounted to the destruction of six

troop concentrations, one boat, and one antiaircraft machine gun. Our helicopter gunships returned safely, praise be to God.

4. One of our forward units opened artillery fire on an enemy concentration opposite our positions in the northern sector of the battlefield, killing nine and destroying two vehicles carrying personnel.

5. One was killed in the Maysan sector.

6. The clique of evil and crime that is ruling in Iran today shelled Basra and Mandali and their environs with heavy artillery, damaging one house in Mandali and some civilian establishments in Basra.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 15 April 1984

President Receives Soviet Ambassador 14 Apr
JN141152 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1120 GMT 14 Apr 84

[Text] Baghdad, 14 Apr (INA) — President Saddam Husayn received Soviet Ambassador in Baghdad Viktor Minin today.

Hamid 'Alwan, minister of state for foreign affairs, and the president's secretary attended the meeting.

'Izzat Ibrahim on Futility of New Iranian Aggression
JN151728 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1700 GMT 15 Apr 84

[Excerpt] Al-Mawsil, northern Iraq, 15 Apr (INA) — RCC Vice Chairman 'Izzat Ibrahim has emphasized that any new Iranian attempt to invade Iraq will be doomed to failure, disappointment, and loss. He said that the enemies, directly supported by imperialism and Zionism, are today trying to steal the victory scoredby the Iraqis after their [the enemies] miserable attempts and their remnants were buried in the Huwayzah marshes and the sands east of Basra.

In an opening speech today at the fourth regional spring festival in Al-Mawsil northern Iraq, he added: We are well aware of all these attempts and have always known their sources, intentions, and aims.

Clandestine Radio Reports Execution of Deserters
GF150904 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Islamic Revolution in Arabic 0755 GMT 15 Apr 84

[Excerpt] The Saddamist regime once again perpetrated a new crime against the children of our Muslim Iraqi people. The news received reported that this regime executed 3 officers and 19 Iraqi soldiers for refusing to participate in the war against their brothers, the Iranian Muslim fighters.

The criminal execution took place in Al-Samawa and 'Ifag in Diwan Province and As-Sawrah in Baghdad Province in the presence of the oppressed masses.

Correction to 12 April DAILY REPORT

In the 12 April Middle East and Africa *DAILY REPORT*, in the table of contents and volume itself, the section following Egypt should read Iraq.

QNA Cites Report on Jordanian-Soviet Contacts

GF161118 Doha QNA in Arabic 1010 GMT 16 Apr 84

[Text] Kuwait, 16 Apr (QNA) — Press reports noted here today that secret talks have begun between Amman and Moscow to discuss preparations for King Husayn's visit to the Soviet capital and his meeting with Soviet leader Konstantin Cherenenko.

The Kuwaiti newspaper, *AL-QABAS*, which carried this report, pointed out that contacts are currently taking place to nail down an agreement on the agenda of the talks between the two leaders. The talks are expected to focus on the Palestinian issue, the situation in the Middle East, the possibility of arming Jordan with Soviet-made weapons, and Jordanian-Syrian relations.

The paper pointed out that Moscow wishes the visit of King Husayn could take place during the expected visit of Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad in May, if health and political conditions permit.

King Receives Egyptian Envoy With Mubarak Message

JN151825 Amman Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 15 Apr 84

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn received in 'Aqaba this afternoon the Egyptian President's envoy, Mansur Hasan, former Egyptian information minister. The Egyptian envoy conveyed a message to His Majesty King Husayn from his brother President Husni Mubarak dealing with the recent developments in the region.

His Majesty King Husayn asked the envoy to convey to President Mubarak Jordan's views and his majesty's ideas on joint Arab action and political activity during this year to prepare for unified Arab bases and coordinated positions to reach positive results for solving our urgent pan-Arab issues.

Ihab Mabah, head of the Egyptian mission looking after Egyptian interests in Amman, attended the meeting.

Algerian Minister Arrives in Amman 13 April

Brings Bendjedid Message

JN132019 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 13 Apr 84

[Text] Amman — Mrs Zehour Duanici, Algerian social affairs minister and FLN Central Committee member, arrived in Amman this evening on a several day official visit to Jordan.

In a statement to a PETRA correspondent, Mrs Duanici said that she carries a message for His Majesty King Husayn from his brother, Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid, which she described as dealing with strengthening the ties of brotherhood and friendship and deepening cooperation in the interests of the two fraternal people and the higher interests of the Arab nation.

She added that she also carried a message from the Algerian Government to the Jordanian-Palestinian joint committee for bolstering steadfastness in the occupied Arab territories. Mrs Duanici was met by 'Abd as-Salam Kan'an, social development minister, and the Algerian ambassador in Amman.

Meets King Husayn

JN141904 Amman Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 14 Apr 84

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn received Zehour Duanici, Algerian social affairs minister and FLN Central Committee member, in 'Aqaba today. She conveyed to his majesty a message from Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid dealing with promoting ties of brotherhood and cooperation between Jordan and Algeria in the service of the two people's interests and the Arab nation's higher interests.

Duanici also conveyed the Algerian president's views on the situations in the Arab west and Arab east, especially those concerning Algerian mediation in the Iran-Iraq war and Algeria's insistence on continuing that mediation until an end to that war is achieved to spare blood and stop the exhaustion of Arab and Islamic energies.

His Majesty King Husayn also reviewed the issues of the region and the Arab homeland, and asked the Algerian minister to convey to President Chadli Bendjedid his views on the current situation in the region and his assessment of the recent developments, especially those concerning the Arab conflict with Israel, the Iran-Iraq war, and the situation in Lebanon.

His Majesty King Husayn and President Chadli Bendjedid called for continuing consultations to further contacts and cooperation between Jordan and Algeria so that an end to the homeland's problems can be reached.

Al-Masri Meets U.S. Congressional Delegation

JN151540 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1425 GMT 15 Apr 84

[Text] Amman, 15 Apr (PETRA) — Tahir al-Masri, foreign minister, received at the International Affairs Society Building this morning the U.S. Congressional delegation currently visiting Jordan. He acquainted the delegation with developments in the Arab region and explained to them Jordan's position toward finding a just and comprehensive solution to the Palestine question and Israel's refusal to respond to the international initiatives and resolutions aimed at finding a comprehensive solution in the region.

Al-Masri also explained to the delegation Israel's practices in the occupied Arab territories and its settlement policy, which is aimed at emptying the land of its original residents and ultimately to annex it. He also touched on the attempts in the U.S. Congress to move the U.S. Embassy in Israel from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem through the Zionist lobby's pressure on the United States. He asserted that many dangers will result in implementing such a decision. He urged the delegation's members to exert their serious and firm efforts to confront that dangerous plan to preserve international legitimacy, principles, and ideals.

Al-Masri also received in his office at noon today the Pakistani National Defense College delegation which is currently visiting Jordan. During his meeting with the delegation, Al-Masri praised the close, cordial relations between Jordan and Pakistan in the various fields, pointing to identical Jordanian and Pakistani views on a large number of international issues.

He also explained to the delegation the bases of Jordan's policy, Jordan's positions toward the Palestinian question, the Iraq-Iran war, and the situation in the region in general. Then the minister answered the delegation's questions about a number of issues. The Pakistani ambassador in Amman attended the meeting.

Army Commander Meets U.S. Official 15 Apr

JN151318 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 15 Apr 84

[Text] Amman — Staff Lieutenant General ash-Sharif Zayd Ibn Shakir, commander in chief of the Jordanian Armed Forces received in his office at the general headquarters this morning Arnold Raphel, U.S. deputy assistant secretary of state for Near East and South Asian Affairs.

The meeting was attended hy the U.S. ambassador in Amman and the military attache in the embassy.

'Arar Leaves With Message for King Hassan II

JN141620 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1455 GMT 14 Apr 84

[Text] Amman, 14 Apr (PETRA) — Sulayman 'Arar, deputy prime minister and interior minister, left Amman for Morocco today with a written message to his Majesty King Hassan II from His Majesty King Husayn, dealing with the current situation both in the Arab and international arenas and on the importance of crystalizing a unified Arab position toward all the events and dangers facing the Arab nation.

This is one in a series of messages that His Majesty King Husayn recently sent to a number of Arab leaders regarding the importance of realizing Arab solidarity in the current stage.

Tunisian Trade Delegation Arrives in Amman

JN151930 Amman Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 15 Apr 84

[Text] Ahmed Ben 'Arafah, minister of state for Tunisian international cooperation [title as heard], arrived in Amman this evening as the head of a commercial and economic delegation on a visit of several days to Jordan. The minister will preside over the Tunisian side in the joint Jordanian-Tunisian commercial committee for increasing economic cooperation, trade exchange, and coordination between the two fraternal countries in all fields.

The guest minister was received at 'Alia' International Airport by Dr Jawad al-'Anani, minister of industry, trade, and tourism; the ministry's under secretary; the Tunisian ambassador in Amman; and a number of officials. The Tunisian minister made the following statement:

[Begin recording] I am very pleased to visit this secure country, which I have known for many years as the ambassador from Tunisia to Amman. Today I came back as the head of a Tunisian commercial and economic delegation to participate in the second session of the Tunisian-Jordanian trade committee. The Tunisian businessmen, who are accompanying this delegation, will hold the necessary, practical contacts to study the possibility of increasing cooperation between the two fraternal countries, Tunisia and the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, in all fields. I have a verbal message to His Majesty King Husayn from President Habib Bourguiba. I hope God will grant us success in our work so that relations between Jordan and Tunisia will be an example for the Arab world. [end recording]

Al-Masri Notes Jerusalem Committee Discussion

JN160800 Amman AR-RA'Y in Arabic 16 Apr 84 pp 1, 22

[Text] Amman — In a statement to *AR-RA'Y*, Tahir al-Masri, foreign minister, said that Jordan will request the implementation of the previous Arab summit decisions concerning taking political and economic measures against countries that move their embassies from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. Al-Masri, who is heading the Jordanian delegation to the Jerusalem Committee meetings that will convene in Fes in Morocco, added that the meetings will discuss moving the U.S. Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem and its consequences. Al-Masri noted that the Arab League's ordinary session that was held recently in Tunis reemphasized this topic.

It is worth noting that the Jordanian Government will present a document to the Jerusalem Committee on the situation in Jerusalem. This document will include a warning against dangers to which the city is being subjugated due to the continuation of the Judaization plan. The Jordanian delegation will employ a number of maps, figures, and photographs to reveal these Judaization plans and the violation of international laws and norms through the continuous aggressions against Islamic and Christian holy shrines in the city.

Press Comments on Recent Anti-Israeli Actions

JN140852 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0510 GMT 14 Apr 84

[Press review]

[Text] Under the headline "Another Sign From Rafah," *AD-DUSTUR* says: The big fedayeen operation which ended at dawn yesterday in Rafah highlights one of the facts of the dispute with the enemy. This fact is represented by the continuation of the struggle against occupation despite all attempts of coercion, deportation, and seizure which Israel violently and brutally practices in an attempt to uproot the spirit of the struggle and to obliterate the identity of the land and people in the occupied territories.

A few days after the daring operation in Jerusalem, which coincided with the eighth anniversary of Land Day, the Rafah operation came to reiterate that the dispute will continue to escalate as long as the Palestinian people are deprived of their legitimate rights, and as long as Israel and all those who aid and support it disavow these people's simplest rights and continue the policy of confiscation, Judaization, and aggression.

AD-DUSTUR continues: Israel frankly admitted yesterday that the Rafah operation was carried out by some people who live inside the occupied territories, and that the arms they used did not come from outside. This shows that the continuation of repression and occupation will be faced with legitimate resistance, which is the only tool left in the hands of those facing submission, usurpation of rights, and disavowal of legitimate aspirations to achieve freedom, security, and peace. Hence, Israel's description of those who carried out the operation as terrorists, and the U.S. and Western circles' condemnation of what took place in Rafah, will not present a real solution to the problem presented by the continued Israeli aggression and the Western disavowal of the Palestinian people's legitimate rights and aspirations.

AD-DUSTUR concludes: What happened in Rafah — regardless of its direct results — is a natural outcome of the 10 years of continuing Israeli aggression against the Palestinian people and a true result of the policy aimed at coercing the Palestinians and disavowing their rights. This situation calls on the international community to assume double responsibilities, not only in condemning the Zionist terrorism which Israel has planted in the region from the Dayr Yasin massacre to the Sabra and Shatila massacres, but also in seriously viewing the significance of such violent operations, which have become the only tool left in the hands of those whom Israel persecutes everyday, Israel's allies disavow, and those who have their just demands, ignored by superpowers.

Under the headline "Bells Are Rung and Doors Are Knocked On," *SAWT ASH-SHA'B* says: The four martyrs who carried out the Israeli bus operation yesterday again knocked on the doors of justice with hands reddened with the blood of martyrdom, and have again rung alarm bells with souls that accepted death to prove their sincerity. These four martyrs have thousands of Arab brothers everywhere; all of them have the same feelings and the same option.

We said the same thing 1 week ago when we were talking about the many significant points of the Jerusalem operation. Today, we repeat what we have said: Fedayeen operations were carried out in the center of Tel Aviv, Jerusalem, Betshe'an, and many other occupied cities and villages, as well as in southern Lebanon. These operations have foiled all Israeli security theories. The secure borders on which they stood after the June aggression almost 17 years ago cannot achieve security for the Israelis, and the modern arsenal of weapons which they store in their Army's depots cannot paralyze the activities of Arab resistance in the occupied Arab territories. In fact, Israel now appears to be a war machine that strikes everywhere in the Arab world without finding either a place to rest or anyone to whom it will extend its hands.

SAWT ASH-SHA'B Asks: Can Israel continue in this situation forever? Can the hands which supply Israel with tools of killing and destruction continue with this process forever? If Zionism was able to create a society of terrorists and killers who are delighted to encroach upon Arab rights and to continue with the state of permanent hysteria that marks their society, will it be logical for the United States — with the responsibility for and concern about the world it represents — to continue encouraging this aggression? It is time for the 20th century community to realistically view what is taking place in the region, before it is too late.

Under the headline "A Message From the Knights of the Field," *AR-RA'Y* says: The Palestinian fedayeen presence entrenches itself everyday in the usurped Palestinian territory. Ten days after the daring attack the fedayeen launched in the center of Jerusalem, the Israeli bus was seized on Thursday night. Eleven Israelis were killed or wounded, and four fedayeen were martyred.

What happened means that the Palestinian people under the yoke of occupation are the ones who produce the blossoms of resistance, plan the fedayeen operations, and carry them out in the usurped territory. This big development is strong evidence that those under the yoke of occupation are now the field knights who have shouldered the organization of resistance inside occupied territory. It is obvious that this is an open message directed at Arab countries and Palestinian organizations, which are still exerting great efforts to achieve reconciliation. This message means that the knights of the usurped territory have no more time to wait for those who are fighting and reconciling outside the walls of occupation. This message also means that those knights are the ones who are establishing the fedayeen presence behind the walls of occupation and the ones who are confronting this occupation despite its brutality and blatancy.

AR-RA'Y concludes: The knights of the field who emphasize their presence in Palestine are the ones who deal with the Israeli occupation in language it understands. The time will come when this language is the real key to the door of peace and the base for achieving it.

SAWT ASH-SHA'B Comments on Arab Rights in Israel

JN151016 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0515 GMT 15 Apr 84

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "Sacrifice Is the Way" *SAWT ASH-SHA'B* says: In a statement broadcast yesterday in Hebrew and English, the Israeli defense minister said that the problem of the Arabs in the territories is not a national problem, but rather the a social problem of a minority in a democratic society with a majority of Jews.

The statement comes in reply to voices raised in Israel, confirming that the continuation of the present Israeli policies will inevitably result in a catastrophe sooner or later in the Israeli society.

Arens' statements are, as usual, arrogant and refuse to recognize the Palestinian people's cause, and refuse to admit that Arab resistance to Israel stems from the violation of the political and rational rights of a people whose identity Israel is obliterating, whose land it is detaching, and whose will and components of existence on their homeland it is usurping.

SAWT ASH-SHA'B adds: To look on the Arabs of the occupied territories and their national aspirations as a social issue in a democratic society is erroneous. Democracy is not based on organized terrorism against a captive people. Democracy does not conceal the rights of others nor does it oppress their existence and national aspirations with armed terror. On the contrary, the issue of the occupied homeland and its inhabitants is an issue of defense of freedom and democracy based on the right of people to self- determination, and is an issue of national struggle against the most virulent type of violence directed at the values of freedom, democracy, and human rights.

Arens' statements are based on Old Testament illusions which Menahim Begin, the Herut Party, and his radical supporters attempted to impose on the ground. These are illusions based on Israeli ownership of the land and viewing the Arabs of the occupied territories as a transient community on the land of Israel without rights and without a national identity.

SAWT ASH-SHA'B says: The problem as presented by Arens is a secondary social issue which is confined to Israel's ability to absorb the Arabs or expel them. This is what will make the Palestinian question a catastrophe for Israeli society, the seeds of which grow daily in the soil of rascism with which Israel faces the people of Palestine. The policies of oppression, arrogance, and intentional disavowal of the Palestinian peoples' national rights are ever increasing.

A reply will definitely come from inside the occupied territories as it has come from Jerusalem and Rafah in the past few days, to remind those who have erred and deviated from the cause of their nation that liberties and rights cannot be obtained by barter and that the only choice for a people who have tried all other means to regain their entity, and prove their right and existence on their land is the duty to confront the society of invaders.

Government, Opposition Leaders Meet on Reconciliation

Hamadah, K. Junblatt Meetings

NC131300 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
1130 GMT 13 Apr 84

[Text] Within the framework of the continuing contacts to eliminate the obstacles preventing a political agreement on the provisions of reforms and making the Army neutral, former Ministers Marwan Hamadah and Khalid Junblatt, and Muhsin Dallul today met with presidential envoy Jean 'Ubayd. The talks dealt with the bases of the reconciliation and reforms which the opposition considers essential regarding the cease-fire, disengagement of forces, and the Army's neutrality. It was learned that further contacts will be held tonight and tomorrow.

Hamadah, Junblatt, and Muhsin Dallul met later with Amal Movement leader lawyer Nabih Birri. They also contacted Progressive Socialist Party leader Walid Junblatt.

Hamadah and Khalid Junblatt also met with U.S. Ambassador to Lebanon Reginald Bartholomew. It was learned that the talks dealt with the situation in the south, the repressive Israeli measures, and the current debate at the UN Security Council on the renewal of UNIFIL's mandate.

Marwan Hamadah had also met with a committee representing relatives of kidnapped persons to review the outcome of current efforts and moves to solve the kidnapped persons question. The talks also dealt with the conditions in the Jubayl area.

Statement on Shelling

NC132047 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
2000 GMT 13 Apr 84

[Text] A meeting was held this evening at Amal Movement leader Nabih Birri's house. It was attended by former Ministers Marwan Hamadah and Khalid Junblatt; Muhsin Dallul, deputy leader of the Progressive Socialist Party [PSP]; and Dr Ayyub Humayyid. After the meeting, the conferees issued a statement holding the Army and the Lebanese Forces responsible for the shelling of Beirut's quarters and its suburb with artillery and heavy weapons. The nationalist forces refrained from engaging in indiscriminate shelling. The Amal Movement and PSP representatives contacted their colleagues in the Security Arrangements Committee, warning against the continuation of this plan, which is shrouded in false propaganda campaigns whose aims are no longer secret to anyone.

Birri on Cease-Fire Adherence

NC140744 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 0630 GMT 14 Apr 84

[Text] Within the framework of the continuing contacts to tackle the security and political questions, the Amal Movement and Progressive Socialist Party leaderships met yesterday. The conferees discussed the latest security and political developments and the government's moves and political maneuvers preparatory to the bilateral meeting in Damascus.

Following the meeting, Amal Movement leader Nabih Birri made the following statement: The meeting was held to affirm our adherence to the cease-fire and our intention not to respond to the mad artillery shelling of the residential areas in West Beirut by the factional army.

During the meeting several contacts were held with political leaders and officials including Mufti Hasan Khalid, [former] Prime Minister Salim al-Huss, [former] Minister Malik Salam, and Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam.

Some political sources pointed out today that the nationalist and Islamic leaderships will issue a detailed political statement warning against the continued killing of innocent people, at a time when the Lebanese Forces and Phalange Party circles hasten to absolve themselves from the shelling operations.

Call for Dialogue on South

NC141314 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
1130 GMT 14 Apr 84

[Text] Amal Movement Leader Lawyer Nabih Birri this morning held a news conference at which he said: Today it is 10 years since that ill-omened day that destroyed the Lebanese structure, disrupted relations, separated Lebanese families, and introduced the Israeli element into every aspect of our daily life.

Lawyer Birri added: The plan in the wake of the Lausanne conference was for some quarters to wage a concentrated shelling against West Beirut to create infighting within West Beirut on the pretext that the shelling of the area comes in retaliation to the shelling from West Beirut. This pretext was almost believed, had it not been for the wisdom of the leadership led by his eminence, Brother Mufti Shaykh Hasan Khalid. This was also evident yesterday when the Nationalist Forces refrained from returning the fire while the Lebanese Forces had confirmed to our representative that they will not open fire.

Lawyer Birri added: Once again I address myself to every national officer and soldier not to respond to the orders to kill their kinsmen, disperse their brothers, and persecute the sons of their homeland. On the day following 13 April, and despite yesterday's destruction, we address an open message through the press to the president, the Lebanese Front, and the Lebanese Forces, saying: It is futile to revolve around ourselves. Ultimately we must live together. We must rebuild in fraternal spirit. I do not own the south, and Kasrawan does not belong to you. Al-Biqa' and all other areas belong to all the Lebanese.

We are fully prepared for a dialogue with everybody — a dialogue the course of which is the south. Whoever takes the south course will take the course of Christ for salvation and peace. It is the road to Calvary but it is this passion that will bring forth a new Lebanon. The road to the south requires the severance of all relations with Israel and the severance of all ties with those who occupied our land, usurped our waters and antiquities; namely, those usurping our future and past. The road to the south requires dependence upon one another — not upon Israel, but upon the homeland's army which we will rebuild.

On this day we call for a clear stance coupled with a serious action and for reopening the road to the south because its reopening reopens the roads between us, and by an accord over the south there will be accord for all Lebanon.

Opposition Delegation Travels to Damascus for Talks

Hamadah, K. Junblatt Meet Khaddam

NC151223 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
1130 GMT 15 Apr 84

[Text] The political leaderships are making concerted efforts to bring about a comprehensive solution to the Lebanese crisis and to overcome the obstacles that have so far impeded a reform program that would pave the way for the formation of a national unity government, which would implement this program. The political move also includes ensuring support for the Lebanese draft resolution at the UN Security Council on extending UNIFIL's mandate, strengthening the role of these forces, and broadening the area of their deployment in order to ensure the implementation of the UN Security Council resolutions calling for the Israeli occupation forces' withdrawal and for the restoration of the state's sovereignty over all the southern region.

Contacts and consultations were held in Beirut between opposition leaders and spiritual and political leaderships on one side and the regime on the other to arrive at common views on current issues. Former Lebaense Ministers Marwan Hamadah and Khalid Junblatt, who arrived in Damascus yesterday, met with Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam. Afterward, Khalid Junblatt said: It was natural for us to meet with our Syrian brothers to exchange views on current developments in Lebanon.

Saudi Mediator Rafiq al-Hariri is expected to arrive in Damascus today to take part in the efforts to calm the situation and to find a political solution to the Lebanese crisis.

Jallud, Qulaylat Arrive

JN151822 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic
1715 GMT 15 Apr 84

[Louis Faris dispatch from Damascus]

[Text] Several important meetings were being held in the Syrian capital all day today. Most prominent was the lengthy meeting held this morning between vice president 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam and the Lebanese opposition delegation comprising Khalid Junblatt, Marwan Hamadah, and Tawfiq Sultan who arrived here early today. Talks dealt with the military escalation and the deteriorating situation in Lebanon.

It was learned that meetings between Khaddam and the Lebanese opposition delegation will continue during the next 24 hours, particularly after Walid Junblatt's return to Damascus from Amman. Later in the day, Marwan Hamadah met with the French ambassador to Syria.

Major 'Abd as-Salam Jallud also arrived here today. Khaddam and senior Foreign Ministry officials received him at the airport. Maj Jallud is accompanied by Ibrahim Qulaylat, leader of the Al-Murabitun Movement. Special sources said that efforts are being made to reconcile Qulaylat and Walid Junblatt, who was quoted as saying that he is ready for reconciliation with Qulaylat. It was noted that Jallud and Qulaylat are staying in the Sheraton Hotel, where the Progressive Socialist Party delegation is also staying.

Khaddam and Jallud held a round of official talks in the evening. The same hotel was the site of another meeting between Marwan Hamadah; Khalid Junblatt; 'Asim Qansuh; George Hawi; and Dr Samir Sabbagh, leader of the independent national Lebanese grouping and this grouping's delegation which includes (Sanal) Barraj and Ahmad al-Halabi. The conferees discussed the Lebanese situation and the current reconciliation efforts in Damascus. Some of the conferees expressed cautious optimism over the possibility of breaking the deadlock. However, it is obvious that further consultations should be held before matters can be crystallized.

In another development, PNC Speaker Khalid al-Fahum met with Karen Brutents, deputy chief of the International Department of the CPSU Central Committee. The two sides exchanged viewpoints on the situation of the PLO and the Palestinian arena in general out of their concern for the PLO's unity. A Palestinian source said that viewpoints were identical.

Junblatt Joins Meetings

JN152126 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic
2040 GMT 15 Apr 84

[Louis Faris dispatch from Damascus; carried within the "Panorama" program]

[Text] Following Walid Junblatt's return to Damascus from Amman, the parties of the Lebanese Nationalist Movement met here at Walid Junblatt's office. 'Asim Qansuh, George Hawi, In'am Ra'd, Samir Sabbagh, Marwan Hamadah, Khalid Junblatt, Tawfiq Sultan, and Fu'ad Salman attended the meeting.

We have learned from our own sources that during this meeting, the conferees discussed the means of confronting the current situation, President Amin al-Jumayyil's visit to the Syrian capital, and the various opinions regarding evaluating and achieving the nationalist movement's objectives in a manner that would guarantee the success of the Syrian-Lebanese summit and secure the Lebanese Nationalist Movement's interests.

I have also learned that the meeting focused on the basic demands which call for an honorable solution to all the standing issues and for the continuation of the spirit of the Lausanne conference and what was agreed on during this conference.

The conferees have crystallized the joint proposals regarding the issue of the army in the south, resolving the question of the south and the Israeli presence there, and the UN plans to expand UNIFIL participation in the south. Emphasis was placed on the

subject of the army, its unification, and its return to the barracks, in addition to changing the army command and drawing up an integrated program as part of a political agreement to form a national unity government. Our sources told us that this is exactly what was agreed on with Amal Movement leader Nabih Birri in Beirut before the Lebanese opposition delegation left for the Syrian capital.

Junblatt Willing To Reconcile With Qulaylat

JN151233 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic
1205 GMT 15 Apr 84

[Fu'ad Na'im's dispatch from Amman]

[Text] Walid Junblatt has stated that to serve the Islamic and nationalist ranks, he is ready for a reconciliation with Lebanese Al-Murabitun Movement Leader Ibrahim Qulaylat. Junblatt, currently in Amman, revealed that Major 'Abd as-Sallam Jallud, the second in command in Libya, will visit Syria in the next few days for talks that will prepare for this reconciliation.

Walid Junblatt added: If Libya and other parties view Ibrahim Qulaylat as the sword of Islam in Lebanon, then I am fully ready for a reconciliation in service of the unity of the nationalist and Islamic ranks and so that events will not be misinterpreted and exploited by some to foment chauvinism and divisions. Regarding his stand toward the formation of a national unity government in Lebanon, Walid Junblatt said: I have no objection to any solution that would halt the destruction, because any talk about reforms in an atmosphere where killings are taking place is futile.

Salim Continues Contacts on Political Reforms

NC131557 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
1515 GMT 13 Apr 84

[Text] Foreign Minister Dr Elie Salim received a telephone call from Saudi mediator Rafiq al-Hariri, who is now in Riyadh. Salim also had telephone conversations with Amal Movement leader Nabih Birri and former Minister Marwan Hamadah. These contacts were a continuation of the direct contacts Minister Salim held in the north and in West Beirut during the past 2 days on authorization from President Amin al-Jumayyil. The contacts aim to discuss political reforms in order to find common denominators that will pave the way for the Lebanese-Syrian summit. A diplomatic source said an agenda is being prepared for this summit.

Meanwhile, an informed source explained that the question of bringing the ADF back to Beirut has not been raised at the official level, but only through the media. The source denied that a Lebanese-Saudi summit is in the offing.

Birri Requests Support for UNIFIL Extension

NC131736 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
1640 GMT 13 Apr 84

[Exterpt] Amal Movement leader Nabih Birri held several contacts with Foreign Minister Dr Elie Salim, Industry Minister George Afram, and Economy Minister Ibrahim Halawah. He also contacted Soviet Ambassador Aleksandr Soldatov and Syrian First Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, requesting support for the question of extending UNIFIL's mandate in south Lebanon in a manner that will leave the door open for increasing UNIFIL's size and effectiveness. Birri also received an invitation from Moroccan King Hassan II to visit Morocco.

Message for Soviet Leaders

NC141415 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
1400 GMT 14 Apr 84

[Text] Amal Movement Leader Nabih Birri received at his residence at noon today (Yuriy Suslikov), Soviet Embassy charge d'affaires in Lebanon. They reviewed the situation in general. Birri gave the Soviet diplomat a letter addressed to the Soviet leadership related to the draft resolution that is being discussed at the UN Security Council regarding the extension of the UNIFIL mandate and the strengthening of UNIFIL in terms of numbers and equipment.

Demands on UNIFIL Mandate Renewal Dropped

NC141300 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1145 GMT 14 Apr 84

[Text] A Lebanese diplomatic source revealed today that Lebanon has abandoned the demands it included in the request for renewal of the UNIFIL mandate. It will be content at present with a routine extension of this mandate, as has been the case since 1972. The diplomatic source added that Lebanon had demanded that the deployment of UNIFIL be extended to other areas and that its terms of reference be amended so the force would participate with the Lebanese Army and the Internal Security Forces in assuming control of the southern areas, particularly those from which Israel will withdraw.

The source said that many obstacles, from more than one influential party at the UN Security Council, have prevented the achievement of the Lebanese demands. Therefore, Lebanon will be content with routine extension of the UNIFIL mandate which the UN Security Council is expected to approve at the beginning of next week. The Lebanese demands will be discussed at a later stage.

Disengagement Postponed; Not Enough Observers

Timetable Approved

NC131451 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
1400 GMT 13 Apr 84

[Text] The Security Arrangements Committee resumed its meetings at its headquarters at the hippodrome at noon today to prepare the practical means for the disengagement of forces in Beirut, Beirut's southern suburb, and the mountain.

After the meeting, the committee issued the following statement:

The Security Arrangements Committe met with all its members attending: Staff Colonel Jean Nasif, the Army representative; Dr Ayyub Humayyid, the Amal Movement representative; Dr Jean Ghanim, the Lebanese Front representative; and Sa'id Ad-Dawi, the Progressive Socialist Party representative. Colonel Klim Wakim, representative of the Internal Security Forces Directorate General, also attended the meeting.

The committee discussed the draft timetable for the disengagement of forces. The draft includes the number of personnel and the equipment required for the implementation of this agreement, the observers' work method, and the setting up of an observers body that will liaise with the Security Arrangements Committee. The committee approved the timetable. The committee noted the insufficient number of observers from the army reserves and the Internal Security Forces. In its desire to accelerate the implementation of the disengagement agreement, the committee calls on the Army Reserve and Internal Security Forces officers who have not yet joined the observers force to do so in response to this call.

Group Commanders Appointed

NC141440 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
1400 GMT 14 Apr 84

[Text] The Internal Security Forces have completed the necessary arrangements for preparing the force that is to oversee the disengagement of forces. This force consists of approximately 750 men commanded by about 48 officers.

In this connection, the Internal Security Forces Directorate General today issued a service memorandum outlining the distribution of the forces that are to oversee the disengagement of forces. Colonel Rafiq al-Hasan has been appointed commander of the group that is to operate in the areas under the jurisdiction of the Beirut police unit. He is to be assisted by Lieutenant Colonel Ilyas al-Hatshiti and Major Mahmud al-Haj. Colonel Mahdi Al-Haj Hasan has been appointed commander of the group that is to take up positions between At-Tayyunah and Jisr Kafr Shima. He is to be assisted by Lieutenant Colonel Fathi al-Hasan and Major Joseph Shidyaq. Colonel Rafiq al-Faghghali has been appointed commander of the group that is to operate in the area from Jisr Kafr Shima up to Suq al-Gharb. He is to be assisted by Major Dhuqan al-Bu'ayni.

Distribution of Forces Outlined

NC141754 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
1630 GMT 14 Apr 84

[Text] The Internal Security Forces have completed the necessary arrangements for preparing the force that is to oversee the disengagement of forces. This force will consist of approximately 750 men commanded by about 48 officers. The disengagement force, which will consist of members of the Internal Security Forces, will be distributed to 12 coordination and observation posts in Beirut, 11 posts in the southern suburb, and 8 posts situated between Jisr Kafr Shima and Suq al-Gharb, in addition to 3 other observation posts.

Reserves Urged for Duty

NC150827 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
0800 GMT 15 Apr 84

[Text] Guarded calm prevails in various areas, disrupted by sporadic sniper fire.

The Security Arrangements Committee will tomorrow discuss how to ensure the necessary number of observers who will supervise the consolidation of the cease-fire and the disengagement of forces. The implementation of the disengagement of forces plan has been deferred until the required number of observers are recruited.

The Army Command Guidance Directorate reminds all Army reserves at the rank of colonel and below, excluding doctors, engineers, and those more than 54 years old, that they should report to the Sabra and Beirut area garrisons by 18 April at the latest to be deployed as observers under the supervision of the Security Arrangements Committee. The command stresses that it will take legal actions against those who do not report to these garrisons.

Delay in Implementation Discussed

NC150627 (Clandestine) Voice of Arab Lebanon in Arabic 5030 GMT 15 Apr 84

[Text] During the random shelling of residential areas in Beirut last night, the security subcommittee met to discuss the current efforts to bring about a cease-fire. The subcommittee also discussed the reasons impeding the implementation of the disengagement of forces plan. The subcommittee issued four decisions for a cease-fire, the last of which was adhered to by the parties concerned. The subcommittee will meet tomorrow to resume its discussions.

Truck Bomb Kills 6 Israelis in Dayr Qanun an-Nahr

NC132020 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
2000 GMT 13 Apr 84

[Text] We begin our newscast tonight with a report that national resistance men today carried out a heroic operation in the Dayr Qanun an-Nahr area against the Israeli occupation forces in which two enemy vehicles were destroyed. The details of the operation are as follows: During the change of forces that the occupation forces carry out every evening, a member of the national resistance rammed an Israeli position with an explosive-filled truck, destroying two tanks and killing their crews. Israel admitted that six soldiers were killed.

Presidential Palace Hit by Rocket; No Injuries

NC150556 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
0535 GMT 15 Apr 84

[Text] While the Islamic forces were holding a national meeting in Dar al-Fatwa and were calling for an end to the shelling of West Beirut after all official and party forces there adhered to the cease-fire, official sources announced during the television

newscast that the third floor of the western wing of the Presidential Palace, where the president and his family reside, was hit by a rocket that destroyed three rooms at midnight on Friday [13 April]. However, the president and his family escaped unhurt. The reason for delaying the release of this report until last night is unknown.

Kidnapped American, Frenchman Released

NC151723 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
1630 GMT 15 Apr 84

[Text] American University Professor Frank Regier, who was kidnapped near his house in Beirut more than 2 months ago, was released today. Regier, a professor of engineering, and Frenchman Christian Jobert, who had also been kidnapped, appeared together at a news conference held this afternoon at the house of Amal Movement leader Nabih Birri. Regier was kidnapped on 10 February. The news conference was attended by U.S. Ambassador Reginald Bartholomew.

Regier told newsmen that it was a horrifying experience. He refused to relate how he was freed. However, he replied in the affirmative when he was asked whether the Amal fighters took him from the kidnappers by force. Regier said he was held in several places during his abduction, but he was not sure where he was held because he was blindfolded most of the time. He said: I do not know who kidnapped me. I think that I was held in West Beirut. He said he estimated this from the sound of artillery fire. The two kidnapped men, Regier and Jobert, were dressed in red-and-white sleeping garments. They appeared exhausted. Their beards were long.

U.S. Ambassador Bartholomew told newsmen that the two men will be given a medical checkup before they are returned to their families. Regier said that he has heart trouble, and that he was given medicines by the kidnappers. Bartholomew said he is thinking of the other missing people. He was referring to William Buckley, the political officer at the U.S. Embassy, and Jeremy Levin, a U.S. television company representative. Buckley was kidnapped on 16 March; Levin was abducted on 7 March.

Regier said his release today was a surprise. Regier is 50 years old. Before his abduction, he was seen near the American University. Two men were seen pushing him into a Mercedes vehicle on Jeanne d'Arc street.

Beirut Reports Casualties in 14 April Clashes

NC150612 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
0530 GMT 15 Apr 84

[Text] Thirteen children were killed in Beirut's southern suburb, and 10 other citizens were martyred yesterday in the worst day of indiscriminate shelling of peaceful areas in West Beirut and its suburb. Clashes with rockets and machine guns could be heard continuing this morning near the contact lines. The number of wounded in the bloody day is nearing 50, despite the fact that the official and party forces in West Beirut adhered to the decision not to shell the residential areas.

Yesterday's wounded included a French observer. He is the first casualty among the 40 observers deployed along the contact lines between the two sectors of the capital since last month.

Meanwhile, the appropriate quarters have been preparing the disengagement force, which comprises 2,000 men. All parties signed the disengagement of forces plan 10 days ago. The plan calls for a firm cease-fire. The disengagement force will be deployed in Beirut, its southern suburb, and in the mountain in the next few hours if arrangements proceed well.

French Doctor Wounded

NC150920 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
0900 GMT 15 apr 84

[Text] An official source of the Security Arrangements Committee said the French soldier who was wounded in Beirut yesterday was not an observer but a French Army doctor, whose duties include looking after the force in As-Sanawbar Palace, the French Embassy staff, and the French observers. The source said the doctor was on his way to the embassy to visit a sick official at 1730 yesterday. When he arrived near the PLO office in Al-Mazra'ah Avenue he was passed by a green Volvo from which fire was opened, slightly wounding him. He was taken to the hospital. An investigation is being conducted by Colonel 'Isam Abu Zaki.

Calm Prevails in Beirut; No Incidents Reported

NC151509 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
1500 GMT 15 Apr 84

[Text] The operations room of the Internal Security Forces informed us that the situation is completely quiet. The operations room has received no reports from the Internal Security Forces' stations about shooting or clashes on the contact lines.

Fighting in Tripoli Eases After Cease-Fire

NC151737 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
1641 GMT 15 Apr 84

[Text] We have just received the following from the NATIONAL INFORMATION AGENCY correspondent in Tripoli: The intensity of the clashes which broke out in Ash-Sha'rani, Hayy al-Amirikan, and Al-Qubbah Square in Tripoli, eased this evening. Intensive contacts conducted by the security committee of the northern coordination body culminated in a cease-fire that went into effect at 1800 today. The committee also reached agreement providing for the return of the Internal Security Forces to their previous positions in the areas that witnessed clashes.

Junblatt Meets With Israeli General in Jerusalem

NC131608 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
1515 GMT 13 Apr 84

[Text] According to information received by the Voice of Lebanon, Walid Junblatt met with Israeli General (Levi Dagan),

former IDF coordinator in Lebanon, on the night of 9-10 April in Al-Musrarah [in Jerusalem]. The general told Junblatt that he will introduce him to his successor General (Shlomo Eliya).

Junblatt Proposes Local Administrations
NC160813 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 16 Apr 84

[Text] In a press statement this morning, Walid Junblatt said: Partial solutions will not yield results; and even if my ally Nabih Birri believes that matters can be fixed through the 6th Brigade, I personally do not believe that this is the solution. Junblatt emphasized the need to establish a single local administration in the nationalist and Islamic areas. He said: If we are faced with any difficulties in achieving this, we will not be democratic but will impose it by force, if necessary, starting from the south right up to Tripoli in the north. Junblatt added: I have only this national proposal: the unification of the nationalist areas into local administrations. This will relieve us from depending on Amin al-Jumayyil's legitimacy. Junblatt believes that this step will also transcend his alliance with [former] President Franjiyah, who is now on the other side; and this must be accomplished in understanding with [former Prime Minister] Karami.

Soviet Experts Enter Radar Site Near Airfield
NC160645 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 16 Apr 84

[Text] Reports from Al-Biqa' indicate that 12 trucks loaded with ammunition arrived at the Junblattist positions on the mountain yesterday. The trucks came from Syria via the al-Masna'-Shtawrah road. The reports add that Soviet experts have entered the radar site in Tallat al-'Imarah, which is near Riyaq airfield. They were wearing Syrian military uniforms.

France 'Studying' Request To Increase Observers
NC141546 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1515 GMT 14 Apr 84

[Text] Regarding the French observers who are to participate in overseeing the cease-fire, our Paris correspondent Fadi Najjar has reported that French officials have not yet made a decision regarding a Lebanese request that the number of these observers be increased, and that the officials are still studying this request.

Radio Monte Carlo Interviews Nabih Birri
JN131947 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1736 GMT 13 Apr 84

[Interview with Nabih Birri, leader of Amal Movement in Lebanon, by Radio Monte Carlo editor in chief Antoine Abu Samra in the weekly program "It Happened Tomorrow" on 13 April — recorded]

[Text] [Antonine Abu Samra] Mr Nabih Birri, after the Lausanne conference, and despite results that were not completely satisfactory, there appeared to be some kind of hope of reaching a solution to the Lebanese crisis. However, this hope has not materialized so far. Can we assess the post-Lausanne situation and say where we are now?

[Nabih Birri] From a purely technical viewpoint, no positive results have been achieved so far. The Lausanne decisions have not been carried out. For example, you know that the Lausanne decisons called for a cease-fire, disengagement of forces, the gathering of heavy weapons, and the return of the army to the barracks. Take the disengagement of forces, for example. What happened after those long successive meetings was not the disengagement of forces as much as the (?dismantling) of forces. This has disrupted all the decisions, including those on the cease-fire. Moreover, certain developments that took place before and after Lausanne have completely affected the general situation. By this I mean the violations that took place in southern Lebanon and the steps that have been taken to sever the south from the rest of Lebanon. by this I also mean the so-called southern army of Lebanon and its relationship with the central authority [Al-Markaziyah] here. Unfortunately, this has aroused doubts even about intentions.

[Abu Samra] Mr Birri, let us go back a little to Beirut, the contact lines, and the violation of the cease-fire. We hear of agreements being reached between the conflicting sides on the cease-fire. But these agreements are soon violated. Who is responsible for the violation of the cease-fire?

[Birri] Today is an ominous day, because it marks the beginning of the 10th year of the seditious war in Lebanon. For 9 full years, we have not heard of a single decision to open fire. What we have frequently heard are decisions to cease fire. Yet, the exchange of fire is the prevailing thing. This proves, without the need to go into any further details as to who is responsible for the violation, that everyone, without exception, has participated at least once or twice in violating the cease-fire. It is definite that a cease-fire cannot be consolidated without the existence of a political basis. The political solution is the basis which will lead to the observance of the cease-fire. In my opinion, all the other decisions will remain ineffective without a cease-fire.

[Abu Samra] Then there has to be a political solution. What are the political conditions you set for this solution?

[Birri] The conditions we set are the conditions of the homeland. I speak in the name of the Amal Movement and the nationalist forces in Lebanon. The Amal Movment does not have any special conditions. To be more precise, the Amal Movement does not set any conditions that have sectarian or factional connotations. As I said, the conditions set by the movement are those of the homeland itself, even as far as the south is concerned. There has to be a clear stand on the south. The Lebanese Government and all the Lebanese factions without exception must commit themselves to the liberation of the south on the basis of UN Security Council Resolutions 508 and 509. The UN emergency forces should also be reinforced and given the necessary powers to implement UN Security Council Resolution 425. Naturally, this should be followed by a clear and frank stand on what has newly become known as the southern army of Lebanon. This army is Israel's mirror in the Lebanese homeland via the south. A legal,

official, and popular stand must be adopted toward this army and its command.

The same stand must also be adopted with regard to the closure of the coastal road, which has cut of the lifeline between the capital and the south. The south is the focal point in the Lebanese-Lebanese dialogue.

Then comes the question of the Lebanese Army. With regard to this Army, we call for the cancellation of political factionalism in this Army. As long as the Army is built on a factional basis, it cannot be used in any way. It will be of no use in protecting the homeland or the legitimate institutions whatever they are. What is needed therefore is to restore the Army's unity through the immediate cancellation of political factionalism in this Army.

[Abu Samra] How can factionalism be canceled in the Army in practice?

[Birri] It can be canceled as follows: The following principle shall be immediately adopted with everything relating to government posts and all government establishments, provided it is applied in the Lebanese countryside; competence and justice must be the basis. A competent officer must be given the post he deserves anywhere in the Army. On this principle, and through national education, we can build the national army we all dream of. Other than that, we must be frank and say that there is no need for a Lebanese Army. There remains the last subject concerning internal reforms. We must build the future Lebanon; a Lebanon for the new generation, not the Lebanon of 1943 which we have experienced and bitterly suffered from through the civil war of 1958; the noncivil wars of 1969 and 1973 which had a factional connotation; and finally this seditious war which began 10 years ago. We must announce the cancellation of political factionalism. It is not essential for the program to be carried out immediately. It can be carried out gradually. But there has to be an agreement in principle.

[Abu Samra] In light of what you are saying, are there any points of agreement between you and the other side; or are all these points of disagreement up to now?

[Birri] Actually, there has been progress on some of the points.

[Abu Samra] Such as?

[Birri] For instance, everyone agrees now on the need to cancel factionalism in government posts with some reservations regarding grade one posts. Regarding the elected councils, this point is still unresolved and has not yet seen any tangible progress. Regarding the Army, I believe that there has been more progress along the line I talked about. But what we hear in the background is one thing, and what is being applied on the ground is something else. For instance, I was promised more than 3 days ago that there would be a clear stand concerning southern Lebanon. I have heard whispers of instructions, but there has been no clear stand.

[Abu Samr] But did the president of the republic not order that a complaint be lodged with the UN Security Council against the Israeli behavior?

[Birri] This has happened in the instructions, but there has been no clear stand as I said.

[Abu Samra] Regarding the demands and stands, who implements them? Every side demands reforms, but who implements them? Do you not believe that it is essential to form a national unity government so it will be able to implement orders, otherwise we will remain in the stage of the presentation of ideas only?

[Birri] Of course, every objective must have the means for its implementation. A national unity government must be established. But it must be established on specific bases. What is the use of jumping into a vacuum; in other words, what is the use of forming a government responsive to the wishes of all Lebanese, then when this government meets every side takes a different course? What would happen? We would be faced with the same situation we experienced in the Higher Security Political Committee.

As I said, this committee is like a government at least as far as the defense and interior ministries are concerned. Notice what happened; they could not agree on anything because our approaches were not on the same level. It is better to form a government of functionaries. But this government must be founded on bases agreed upon beforehand so the government is not hampered from the very first session.

[Abu Samra] This means that you believe that the time is not opportune for the formation of a national unity government?

[Birri] On the contrary, the time is very appropriate, but this must be preceded by a declaration of general principles concerning the south, the Army, and internal reforms. After that, the government can be formed and its policy statement should at least include these matters and principles which will have been agreed upon by all officials and sides. Thus, we will have placed the government on a sound basis and along the course of success, and not of obstruction from the very first day.

[Abu Samra] Who is empowered to declare the principles? Will there be a general national conference in Lebanon, or will the whole matter be referred to the Syrian-Lebanese summit?

[Birri] Regarding the Syrian-Lebanese summit, I believe that this summit must succeed. It must never fail. It is everyone's hope now. But for this summit to succeed, [President] Shaykh Amin al-Jumayyil must carry with him an entire file on the reforms I talked about. He will then have prepared the sound and fertile ground for the success of the summit. But to go there and come back with a cease-fire plan, I believe this is not the concern of the summit. The summit should tackle more serious issues. The summit must crown the final solution in Lebanon.

[Abu Samra] The summit is being delayed day after day. Do you believe that the summit will not be held soon because of the lack of a declaration of frank stands?

[Birri] I believe that the Lebanese Government has so far not taken the necessary steps to permit the convocation of this summit.

[Abu Samra] Some questions are being raised these days. First, the airport. Why has it not been reopened? Who is responsible for reopening the airport?

[Birri] I called for reopening the airport before and after Lausanne. The problem is that the Lebanese Government does not see matters clearly. Unfortunately, the Lebanese Government does not see the true situation in Lebanon. It does not see what a faction of the Lebanese Army has been doing before and after Lausanne. Last night, this faction of the Army, which is under the government, dropped 200 shells in the southern suburb. One shell fell on a 13-story building. The purpose of this situation is to to provide the continuous justification that the Army in West Beirut, which has refused to destroy its own people, does not deserve to maintain security on the road to the airport. This is the exact point hampering the reopening of the airport. We are completely ready. We have announced before and we announce now that the airport should be reopened and the road to the airport should be ensured by the Lebanese National Army and the Internal Security Forces; in addition, of course, to the airport's own security organs.

[Abu Samra] Mr Nabih Birri, some voices are calling for, demanding, supporting, or welcoming the return of the ADF to Beirut; in other words, the return of the Syrian forces to solve the problem. What is your frank stand on this subject? Will you support the return of the ADF if it becomes necessary?

[Birri] Actually, the first to hint at this subject was Shaykh Pierre al-Jumayyil at the Lausanne conference. He called for a force that may disengage or force everyone to observe the cease-fire. He hinted at this subject and, in fact, demanded it more than three times without actually referring to the ADF by name. As far as we are concerned, we consider the return of the ADF essential and a must to prevent partition and Zionization. We have no objection whatsoever to this. Of course, the Lebanese authority has to make this request to the Syrian Government which will study it and decide if it will agree to it or not. I do not have any information so far regarding the Syrian Government's position on this point.

[Abu Samra] My last question, Mr Nabih Birri, is on the situation in West Beirut. An incident that occured several days ago dis-turbed the atmosphere a little, especially with regard to the Christians in West Beirut, when a whole family was murdered there . Has the investigation reached any results? What is the prevailing climate now?

[Birri] Actually, the sorrowful incident, which involved a family from our Christian brothers in West Beirut, has been given our fullest attention. The Internal Security Forces, including detectives and judiciaries, have been entrusted with this case. They have been given full powers even as far as parties and movements are concerned. The idea is that the investigation should be conducted thoroughly to pinpoint the perpetrators. It is a plot against the security of nationalist Beirut. It is a plot against the present coexistence in nationalist Beirut. Beirut is Lebanon's facade. Beirut is the bosom of Lebanon. It does not belong to any particular faction or sect. It belongs to all the Lebanese . Actually, I am checking daily with the security men to find out about the results on the subject. We hope to reach the results, God willing. When the hand of justice reaches these criminals, the lesson will be very severe in order to prevent the repetition of such crimes.

Sabra, Shatila Demonstrations Support 'Arafat

NC141144 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
1115 GMT 14 Apr 84

[Text] Signs have been posted in Sabra and Shatila calling for the return of Palestinian armed offices inside the camps. Demonstrations were staged in these camps in support of Yasir 'Arafat.

RFL Says Officers Executed for Brotherhood Ties

NC151238 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic
1145 GMT 15 Apr 84

[Excerpt] Radio Free Lebanon received the following exclusive information regarding the Syrian power struggle: Four Syrian officers, one a brigadier general, another a first lieutenant, and the other two holding unknown ranks, were executed on the charge of dealing with and facilitating the movements of Muslim Brotherhood members.

Al-Kasm Reads Government Policy Statement

JN142026 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1757 GMT 14 Apr 84

["Policy statement" read by Prime Minister 'Abd ar-Ra'uf al-Kasm in the People's Assembly on 14 April — video recorded]

[Text] Mr Speaker of the People's Assembly, esteemed ladies and gentlemen, members of the Assembly: Today's government statement comes after a phase with its own plans and programs. Despite the major difficulties which accompanied this phase, our determination to overcome hardship has placed us in a position transcending these difficulties. What had been regarded before as a major challenge of development has now become, thanks to the efforts of its producers, an importantly successful document. This is because Syria's bold, ambitious experiment in development parallels its national option and pan-Arab steadfastness in the region.

Expressing as it does the continous line drawn in the Ba'th Party's conferences and resolutions, this government statement is a clear indication of the great achievements, values, and policies that can be created by political and economic planning. These values and lines should be translated into active formulas. New horizons for the future of this people should be drawn up so that we may become confident that what we plan and implement will enrich our society with new things, and so that our general approach will lead us to the continous entrenchment of the pillars of economic progress, and affirm the bases of social and political stability and our national front. We want Syria to remain true to its honorable traditions as an Arab state which is aware of the Arab cause and can be trusted to uphold the Arab masses' interests.

We want Syria to become the source of inspiration for unity that renews the pan-Arab hopes whenever circumstances overwhelm the Arab nation. Syria will be the strong bastion against all the enemies who try in vain to infiltrate it.

Stemming from this broad line, the various government programs are subject to certain priorities demanding special consideration and requiring continuous initiatives to challenge threats and obstacles. This is because we are convinced that the economic and political responsibilities are an indivisible whole. The desire of our people, our party, our Progressive National Front, our People's Assembly, and government is to win two inseparable battles: the battle of continuous development and the battle of permanent steadfastness under the leadership of Comrade Hafiz al-Asad, secretary general of the Ba'th Party and president of the republic.

Arab Policy

Our country's policy on the Arab level stems from the principled aims and stands affirmed by the Ba'th Party. Foremost among these aims is getting rid of the state of division and fragmentation in the Arab homeland and encouraging all steps at unity aimed at strengthening the Arab nation in facing the threats resulting from Zionist and imperialist ambitions. The bases for building the unified Arab socialist society should be laid down. The resolutions of the Ba'th Party's seventh regional congress have expressed these concepts and approaches. These resolutions have drawn up a clear line for the government defining its position on the Arab level. This position is based on the following principles:

1. Continuing the pan-Arab struggle, promoting the unity trend in the Arab homeland, and effecting any unity with any Arab state that seriously desires it.

2. Continuing efforts to bolster Arab solidarity and strengthening joint Arab action in all fields on an essential basis — namely, working against imperialism and Zionism in order to promote the just Arab cause and to pool Arab resources in facing the primary enemy of the Arab nation.

3. Continuing to assume the burdens of pan-Arab responsibility toward fraternal Lebanon and helping it to achieve national accord, and considering the fall of the 17 May agreement an important victory for the Arab nation — a victory that will have positive, far-reaching repercussions all over the Arab arena and in the Arab liberation movement facing and foiling all the Zionist and imperialist projects.

4. Resisting all attempts to liquidate the Palestinian question, which constitutes the focus of the Arab-Israeli conflict; contributing in an effective manner toward achieving Palestinian national unity; and preserving the unity of the PLO in its capacity as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian Arab people on the basis of its line which is hostile to imperialism, Zionism, and separate and capitulatory solutions.

5. Continued adherence to the main objective, which is the liberation of all the occupied Arab territories and the nonconcession or nonrelinquishment of any part of these territories; and the restoration of the inalienable national rights of the Palestinian Arab people.

International Policy

International relations are currently passing through a very complicated and tense stage. The hostile policies of U.S. imperialism and Zionism are fully responsible for increasing world tension and undermining international detente due to their insistence on imposing their conditions by military force on the world's peoples and states. The seriousness of this onslaught necessitates that we, more than ever, are required to expand the framework of our alliances and friendships with the world's peoples and forces that stand at the side of the Arab cause. In light of this, our foreign policy will be based on the following principles:

1. Continuing support for the Nonaligned Movement, strengthening its unity, and improving its work methods on the basis of resisting imperialism, Zionism, and fascism; and working for achieving the objectives of this movement by political and economic liberation and social progress.

2. Continued strengthening of ties of friendship and cooperation with the socialist bloc countries, headed by the USSR, in all fields, and affirming the importance of the strategic character of these ties.

3. Developing relations with African, Asian, and Latin American countries to back the world front hostile to Zionism, colonialism, U.S. imperialism, and racial discrimination.

4. Continuing contacts with the European states and their peoples and progressive parties to improve their stands toward our just Arab issues, and to point out the dangers to world peace and security from Israel's aggressive expansionist policy.

5. Backing national liberation movements all over the world.

Domestic Policy

A realistic analysis of what Syria means now places us before an important fact: that in the eighties, Syria has multiplied [tada'afat] tens of times more than it did in the seventies and sixties. The social and economic changes are large and great. These changes have contributed toward comprehensively changing the Syrian Arab community. Perhaps it was a miracle that this country was able to establish simultaneously an economy with an international structure and a strong army with a continuous fighting capability, through doubled efforts in both fields. Undoubtedly, the Syrian Arab people have paid the price for this progress through various sacrifices, and have paid the price for the continuous confrontation through patience, faith, and confidence that history will record in bright pages.

The sacrifices of the people are not in vain. The people have won the battle of development and gained the honor of determination and continuation by resolutely carrying the banners of pan-Arabism, regardless of gloomy incidents, bad circumstances, and Arab differences. Each stage had its difficulties and negative points. Moreover, many doubts were always cast. However, political awareness and economic awareness have pushed the stands toward specific objectives. There has been no experience without mistakes and negative points. In fact, drawing attention to, discovering, and evaluating these negative points and mistakes is the standard of the soundness of the general course. Still, there are negative points that we know of and you speak about in this Assembly and in the press. However, this proves that we detect, confront, and surmount these mistakes and negative points.

The most important issue to which we should devote our attention is that we are required now more than ever to embark upon an administrative-production revolution not only on making correct decisions, but also on carrying out correct decisions correctly.

We are also required to strengthen the bases of administrative and production discipline and to turn the entire national economy into a mechanism with disciplined leadership, responsibility, and performance. The current changes have provided us with a balanced industrial, agricultural, commercial, and service economy whose merits become clear when we consider the various forms of disruption that instability in the international economy causes to neighboring and other countries. We are still unaffected by most of its consequences. It is important that we should be aware of employing this equilibrium and cohesion to provide a real and broad opportunity for the constructive and productive elements in this homeland, in order to grant them a chance to invest their special potentials and use their effectiveness to contribute to this country's development.

There is no doubt that the productive private sector has an effective role in industry, tourism, agriculture, and commerce, especially in the field of exporting national products, opening foreign markets, and participating in the various social services projects. The productive national capital should assume its duties and play its role defined by the development plan. It will obtain the government's full support to continue in this field and prove its ability as the public sector proved its real ability through leading the national economy and building a Syria confident of its intrinsic ability to confront all the possibilities.

On the other hand, specific features of the coming stage require organization, coordination, and integration between the organs operating in the government and the public sector, making it incumbent on us to understand the meaning of responsibility in accordance with the general development. They also requrie us to focus on dealing with the factors leading to the waste of time, effort, and material and to reach a more complete formula for the state, which assumes responsibility everywhere and at any time. General discipline, imposed by law and order, must provide coherent levels of relations and objectives. [sentence as heard]

It is time to select the criteria leading more than ever to clarifying the distinction between the productive and nonproductive, and stressing the role of honorable, sincere, and honest people and those who are concerned about public welfare and opposed to negative phenomena.

President Hafiz al-Asad's instructions during his conversation with the ministers will be a great guide for the government to work and assume its responsibility because they accurately define what we are complaining of and what we should seek.

Proceeding from this principle, the general objectives of the ministerial program will be defined within the internal policy in accordance with the following principles.

1. This homeland, the homeland of workers, peasants, all producers, and all those honest to the public interests and the concept of affiliation to the homeland, is epitomized every day by a concern with all the citizens' interests, and the honest implementation of production plans and policies derived from the objectives of the party and the masses who believe in socialism.

2. Stressing the absolute supremacy of law and order.

3. Continuing to strengthen and raise the level of the Army and the Armed Forces to continue their expanded qualitative development and to remain the effective force in defending Syria and the Arabs, repulsing any aggression, and confronting any pressure or conspiracy against the Syria of liberation, confrontation, and steadfastness.

4. Making a practical, concentrated move in administrative development in the government's organs and the public sector following the completion of a labor and employment survey.

5. Strengthening the 1983 start toward achieving a radical solution to the agricultural question, and making this solution the central point for restoring the economic and social balance

between the city and the countryside, between agriculture and industry, and between production and consumption.

6. Having completed the final accounts and assessed the costs in industrial establishments and companies, emphasis will be placed on reducing the cost of industrial production, removing the causes of squandering, improving production specifications, increasing production, and achieving maximum economic and commercial revenues.

7. Continuing with the exploitation of the country's natural resources, including oil, gas, and other mineral resources; and benefitting from new alternatives such as solar, water, and wind energies.

8. Expanding the scope of services in the fields of education, health, housing, and internal transport; providing drinking water and electricity; expanding the road and railroad networks and telephone lines; ensuring commodities and goods for the people in suitable quantities, times, and prices; expanding the internal trade networks and the distribution centers and halls; and paying greater attention to foreign trade by making the next phase one of wider distribution of national products.

9. After carrying out the required reforms in the financial and taxation system, and after developing the methods of banking activity, efforts will be directed toward reinforcing these reforms and activities, enlarging economic profits, increasing the government's dependence on internal loans, and further strengthening the position of Syrian currency.

10. Carrying out the necessary studies concerning the provinces and districts' administrative and economic situations to unify the adminstrative and economic structure of the single administrative division. A higher committee for comprehensive regional planning and a subcommittee for supervising the implementation have been formed. These will have far-reaching effects on the national economy.

Guided by these principles, the government will continue its domestic policy. It is important to begin first by implementing the third phase of the local administration law and achieving the highest level of coordination and integration among the ministries and their departments and establishments as well as among all administrative units in the country. All this should be linked to continuous efforts to develop the judiciary and the existing legislation in compatibility with general development in all fields. The unified labor law, the new plan on social security, and the amended law on agricultural relations should all be promulgated.

It must be pointed out here that the Syrian Arab society is one of the most stable societies with regard to internal security. This calls for steps to entrench this public security, to continue to reinforce the security organs with manpower and financial capabilities, and to simplify the procedures affecting citizens in all provinces.

Since a society in development lacks the participation of women in large numbers, efforts will be exerted to encourage more Syrian woman to enter the fields of labor and production. Participation in the production process will be a key objective so the woman will occupy her appropriate place and assume her full and normal responsibility in the Syrian Arab society.

Economic Policy

Before going into the details required by a review of Syria's economic policy, we must point to the world economic and political situation, the changes which have led to circumstances and relations which make it difficult for any country to avoid the different effects on its economy and policy. This world situation has also had a direct or indirect effect on our country's economy. These circumstances include the following:

1. The world economic situation, which after World War II has become more complicated, especially in the industrial world, has been characterized by a period of recession, inflation, a drop in economic activity, and a further increase in the volume of trade exchanges. This has increased the difficulties faced by nations in rectifying their balances of payment. The effect of these economic developments has been greater on the developing countries, especially those which are not oil rich, to the extent that the growth rate in these countries reached the lowest levels known in recent decades. For the first time in the post-war period, this has caused a tangible drop in the real income per capita in many of these nations.

2. The international political situation and its rife tension.

3. The Arab political situation and its rife division and fragmentation.

4. The intensification of the imperialist onslaught against the Syrian Arab country directly resulting from its national and Pan-Arab positions, the various forms this onslaught has taken, and the different means it has employed, particularly the resort to using economic tools as weapons in it. This required ever-increasing funds for the purpose of stability and defense. This can be clearly discerned from the annual allocations budgeted for this purpose over the past years.

We are not trying to analyze each one of these points, but we must recall them, particularly because some have a direct bearing on our resources and, hence, on the rates of economic growth and the progress realized in this growth and the additional economic and social policies it will require — policies aimed at warding off negative effects and bolstering the march of economic growth to strengthen our courageous stand of confrontation and steadfastness.

In light of the above considerations, work had to be continued to increase the overall local production, which has realized a real annual average of about 5.5 percent over the past 3 years. We must work to increase our dependence on local resources, which have been increasing at the rate of 15 percent annually over the past 3 years, thus realizing an ever increasing capacity for responding to the demands of security and stability and for the requirements of economic and social development. Paralleling this trend, efforts must be exerted to enhance more effective rationalization in the field of consumption and expenditure, particularly in luxury goods and useless expenditure. We must

use what we spare of our resources for better returns and maximum profit.

It cannot be overstressed here that our economic development experiment in particular, and the experiments of the developing states in general, give us only one choice if we want to progress in realizing our development plans, programs, and projects, and preserving our political and economic independence and our national and pan-Arab security. This choice is represented by strengthening our economic and trade relations with the socialist states headed by the USSR.

In light of this analysis of the economic policy, the government will continue to pursue its aims in the following sectors:

1. The agricultural problem:

Placing agriculture as a top priority in economic planning has been an important decision which for some time did not find a proper outlet because of a difference in concepts. However, the new approach which began in 1983 gave this priorty an economic dimension. The basic aims will be directed toward adopting similar agricultural units as a basis for the production and investment plans. Mass production should be exploited. The use of the agricultural machinery should be expanded and the requirements for production should be made available. Work on water installations should be continued and their use must be organized. Irrigated land should be expanded and tree plantations and forestry should be encouraged. Livestock and animal husbandry should be developed and protected. The cooperative societies in the agricultural field should be backed.

2. Manufacturing and mining industries:

After creating important developments in industry that include the levels of organization and the removal of accumulated mistakes, the government's task must be focused on implementing projects planned and currently under implementation, achieving the approved average for growth, increasing the economic interest, reducing the costs of industrial production, improving the specifications of production, removing the contradictions that hamper productive decisions, continuing to alleviate waste, drawing up production plans in accordance with actual and maximum capabilities, continuing the process of surveying for minerals and oil, making the country's needs apparent, exporting the production surplus, improving the specifications of the manufactured mined materials, and developing energy production from renewable and endless sources.

3. Foreign and domestic trade:

The government will continue to implement its policy which seeks to expand the variety of the basic commodities; to establish stable and binding contracts between production and exportation institutions on the one hand and domestic trade institutions and the consumer cooperative societies on the other; to expand the distribution networks; to increase the effect of supply control; to continue state support for strategic materials needed by the people; to expand trade relations with the Arab countries with special emphasis on concluding long-term trade agreements; to achieve an integrated system for supporting exports; and to help exporters by various means that would make export policy a strategy with priority in foreign trade.

4. Finance, currency, and banks:

After creating radical reforms regarding the tax and financial system, and after controlling tax accumulation, the government will complete the required reforms in a manner that will achieve justice regarding costs; continue to limit the expenditures for the government and economic sectors; strengthen the trend of increasing economic interest; reduce the effect of world inflation on the country; encourage savings and diversify its channels in addition to expanding and improving insurance services; and facilitate banking measures in the country.

Services

Despite the great expansion in the country during the past years in the field of comprehensive services, social progress, the increasing population, the spread of harmful consumption methods, and the concentration of population in the major cities still constitute a condition that absorbs every expansion and increases the renewing needs, especially since the countryside still requires necessary concentration on the services provided to it. The government's task will be disseminated to integrate the services in education. This will be achieved through continuing the obligatory system in the elementary stages and increasing the number in the preparatory and secondary stages with special emphasis on all kinds of technical education, particularly industrial education; expanding university education, particularly higher studies; completing the colleges and institutes in the country's universities; providing the means of improving educational life; reactivating the educational Arab heritage; and setting up bridges between Arab and modern civilizations.

If the concern about the human being's allowance, education, and stages in his education is important, then the concern about what will provide him with comfort and harmony in daily life is considered necessary. Therefore, the government will continue to provide the best levels of internal transporation, increase the roads and highways, complete railroad projects, and make them a basis for the internal transporation plan. Moreover, the government will increase the reception capacity in the airports and sea ports, organize telephone and mail services, and increase the [word indistinct]. It is also important to continue the activity that began a few years ago regarding the establishment of popular housing units; expanding the health services; providing potable water, especially for the citizens in the countryside; and following up on the problems of the agricultural and industrial sectors to eventually surmount the housing problem.

All this calls for expanding existing electricity stations, building new stations, especially the nuclear power station; continuing the electrification of the countryside; guiding consumption of energy; increasing its production; and continuing the search for alternative energy sources to meet the requirements of future development.

All this is also linked to the health plan, which includes building the approved hospitals and health centers. Priority in this field will be given to making health services available to all inhabitants

in the towns and the countryside. This calls for conducting periodic health surveys, and continuing with the present national drug policy. Effective 1 July 1984, the health security plan will be applied in the city of Damascus and the Governorate of Damascus after completing all the necessary steps.

Since tourism is currently witnessing reorganization and preparation to make it give tangible economic results, government attention to this sector will be compatible with the need to attract world tourism and encourage internal tourism.

In this framework of services, we believe that this sacrificing and steadfast people deserve the widest gains and achievements which relate to the daily life of the citizen.

A great responsibility also falls on information, which spreads knowledge and culture and plays a major role in linking the people to development objectives, just as it links them to political issues. The government will continue to back the information media so they can perform their economic, political, and cultural tasks. I do not need to remind you that our main concern in this country is to strengthen the sublime spiritual values in society in accordance with the spirit of Islam and the sublime objectives of religions, which are considered an indivisible part of the entity of this Arab east and of the whole of mankind.

Mr Speaker, ladies and gentlemen, in all the stages through which our country, Syria, has passed, confrontation of the factors of backwardness and obstacles was coupled with confrontation of the different forms of economic and political pressure, which seeks to change the equation in which Syria constitutes the pivot in this region. Syria has confronted this pressure under the leadership of Comrade Struggler President Hafiz al-Asad and prevented it from achieving any of its strategic objectives. The domestic situation is cohesive and solid and the masses' belief in the political and economic line has always been the realistic and solid basis for the solid political stands.

What the revolution has achieved in Syria is self-evident in the solid economic situation. There is no doubt that the decisive political decision with its social and economic purpose at every phase was forging the road for the workers, peasants, and producers in this homeland, overcoming backwardness and paving the way for education to help the general development of society. Such a development makes cultural and liberal progress replace everything reactionary, and makes justice replace inequities which deprive people of their natural rights to their homeland's resources.

One of the main reasons why our national economy is cohesive and balanced is its increasing dependence on the public sector. It is no secret that the public sector with its two main pillars — industry and agriculture — has sustained and is still sustaining Syria under all circumstances. We deduce from this that the more domestic policy depends on the masses, the more foreign policy becomes powerful with regard to national steadfastness.

It is clear that Syria's strengthening role under the leadership of Struggler President Hafiz al-Asad, which is backed by the broadest Arab masses and the world liberation forces, has forced the respect of the direst and biggest enemies and still binds them to delicate and costly calculations if they choose aggression. Through its internal and external victories, the Syrian role has assumed a national and pan-Arab dimension not only for Syria, but for all Arabs. No enemy can undermine Syria whether with regard to its position on Lebanon or the Palestine question, or to its ability to prevent any outside intervention from achieving its objectives in this part of the world.

If Syria is proud of its firm national stand, it is because it is strong with its people, capabilities, leadership, and loyal friends, especially the socialist bloc countries headed by the USSR, which has stood and still stands with us and has placed its weight in the balance on Syria's side against any pressure, threat, or aggression.

This people has been and still is the source of the revolution's strength and its impregnable fortress due to the great changes they have achieved and safeguarded. The objective will always be to work for the sake of the people, for the sake of their economic and social revolution, and for the sake of their principles of unity, freedom, and socialism. Through cooperation among all of us — assembly and government — we will be able, God willing, to implement our work programs for the next phase. God is the grantor of success. Peace be upon you.

Spokesman Says Al-Asad's Health 'Excellent'

JN131525 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1500 GMT 13 Apr 84

[Text] The press spokesman for the Presidential Palace in Damascus has stated that President Hafiz al-Asad's health is excellent, that the president works regularly, and that he works 15 hours a day, more working time than any state leader in the world.

The spokesman was commenting on some reports, which the spokesman described as ridiculous and groundless, disseminated by information organs.

Prime Minister Congratulates USSR's Tikhonov

JN141244 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 14 Apr 84

["Text" of congratulatory cable Prime Minister Dr 'Abd ar-Ra'uf al-Kasm to Chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers Nikolay Tikhonov — date not specified]

[Text] On the occasion of your reelection as chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, I would like to congratulate you on behalf of the Syrian Government and myself for the confidence the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium has placed in you. On this occasion, I would like to assert the firm and continued trend toward expanding the strong and solid Syrian- USSR relations in all spheres. We proceed in this from foundations of existing friendship and cooperation between our countries, which are struggling against all imperialist and Zionist schemes and aggressive policies that threaten people's security, their desire for just peace, and their will to self- determination.

I would like to express our high esteem for the USSR's continued support for Syria, the Arab cause, and the national struggle. I wish you success, and the friendly USSR people more progress and impregnability.

USSR Peace Committee Delegation Arrives 13 Apr

JN131620 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1515 GMT 13 Apr 84

[Text] Damascus — A delegation of the Soviet Committee for the Defense of Peace headed by Comrade Muminsho Kanoatov, chairman of the Committee for the Defense of Peace and member of the TaSSR Supreme Soviet, arrived in Damascus today on a week-long visit to Syria at the invitation of the National Council of the Peace Partisans Movement.

The delegation was received at Damascus International Airport by several members of the Executive Bureau of the Peace Partisans Council and a number of the Soviet Embassy staff in Damascus.

The comrade chairman of the TaSSR Committee for the Defense of Peace stated to the SANA correspondent that he affirmed the issue of the defense of peace in this region is important and the peace partisans movement is one of the broadest in the world. He said that the Soviet delegation's visit will help increase cooperation among peace partisans in the world and also unify their efforts.

CPSU's Brutents Arrives in Damascus 14 Apr

JN142054 Damascus SANA in Arabic 2030 GMT 14 Apr 84

[Text] Damascus, 14 Apr (SANA) — Comrade Karen Brutents, deputy chief of the International Department of the CPSU Central Committee, arrived in Damascus today on a visit to Syria at the invitation of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party National Command.

The guest delegation will hold meetings and talks with a number of party and state officials.

Meets With Al-Ahmar

JN151453 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1325 GMT 15 Apr 84

[Text] Damascus, 15 Apr (SANA) — Comrade Karen Brutents, deputy chief of the International Department of the CPSU Central Committee, has confirmed his country's strong support for the national policy that Syria under Struggler President Hafiz al-Asad adopts — a policy that constitutes a firm base for the progressive struggle in the Arab region.

During his meeting here this morning with 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, assistant secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, Comrade Brutents said the Soviet Union is closely following the recent developments in the Middle East region, firmly stands at Syria's side, and will not allow the aggressors to carry out their plans. He explained that Syria's victories, especially the abrogation of the 17 May agreement, have reflected positively on the progressive pan-Arab struggle and the international liberation movement.

Comrade al-Ahmar also stressed during the meeting Syria's steadfast position under President al-Asad and its confrontation of imperialist U.S., Zionist, and reactionary policy and its determination to build its intrinsic ability as a basis for confronting aggression and U.S. threats. He also praised the Soviet Union's support for Syria and Arab rights, asserting that this principled Soviet position constitutes one of the main elements for strengthening our steadfastness in the face of aggression and our confrontation of the aggressive plans in the region.

During the meeting, the two sides also reviewed the developments in the Arab region in general and in the Lebanese arena in particular, especially after the abrogation of the 17 May agreement and Syria's efforts with the Lebanese parties to realize Lebanese national accord. They also reviewed the existing relations between the two friendly parties and countries as well as the continued developments in these relations within the framework of the two parties' defined joint objectives.

Talks With Ash-Shar'

JN161039 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1015 GMT 16 Apr 84

[Text] Foreign Minister Faruq ash-Shar' this morning received Karen Brutents, deputy chief of the International Department of the CPSU Central Committee. During the meeting, the talks dealt with the political situation in the region.

Libya's Jallud Arrives in Damascus 15 Apr

LD151543 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1438 GMT 15 Apr 84

[Text] Damascus, 15 Apr (KUNA) — Major 'Abd as-Salam Jallud, member of the Libyan Revolutionary Command Council, arrived here this afternoon carrying a message from Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi to Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad on the present circumstances in the region. He was welcomed by Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam.

Libyan sources here said that Major Jallud will meet with Walid Junblatt, chairman of the Lebanese Progressive Socialist Party, who arrived here today from Amman, with the aim of reconciling Junblatt and Ibrahim Qulaylat, leader of the [Lebanese] Independent Nasirite Movement — Al-Murabitun, and settling existing differences by peaceful means. Last month the forces of the progressive party seized Al-Murabitun positions and offices in West Beirut. Major Jallud will also meet with a number of the Palestinian resistance factions' leaders present in Damascus.

Confers With Khaddam

JN152034 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2015 GMT 15 Apr 84

[Text] Damascus — Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam held a meeting this evening with 'Abd as-Salam Jallud, Revolution Command Council member of the 1 September Rev-

olution in the Libyan Jamahiriyah. During the meeting, the two sides discussed the situation in the region and issues of common interest.

Jallud arrived in Damascus this afternoon on a visit to Syria.

Meets Al-Asad 16 Apr

JN161135 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 16 Apr 84

[Text] Damascus -- At 1230 today, President Hafiz al-Asad received Major 'Abd as-Salam Jallud, member of the leadership of the 1 September Revolution in Libya. Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam attended the meeting.

Discussions dealt with the Middle East and Lebanese developments in light of the anti-Arab U.S. and Israeli moves and the task of confronting these moves. Other issues of joint interest were also discussed.

Officials Dubious About Syrian-Lebanese Summit

PM141343 London ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 13 Apr 84 p 1

[Wahib Muhammad Ghurab report: "Three Obstacles Delayed Syrian-Lebanese Summit"]

[Excerpt] Damascus — The obstacles hindering the summit meeting between Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad and Lebanese President Amin al-Jumayyil have now been defined. Political sources which had earlier met with Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam said Damascus believes there is no reason for holding the summit as long as none of its demands have been realized.

The sources said that Damascus has informed the two envoys that came last week to prepare for the summit that there will be no summit before President al-Jumayyil makes progress and adopts a clear stand with regard to three points:

1. The political reforms which are supposed to be put into effect and to be the transitional government's most important program:

The sources said that Damascus believes that President al-Jumayyil should define his stand in advance toward a minimum of political reforms.

2. The question of the Army: The sources say that Damascus insists President al-Jumayyil should restructure the Army in the desired manner to ensure its loyalty to the state and prevent sectarianism from fragmenting it.

3. Consolidation of the ceasefire and the separation of forces on all axes, particularly on the contact lines and at the Museum crossing points:

The sources said that if solutions are found to these questions the summit could be held next week or some time later.

The sources doubt President al-Jumayyil's ability to achieve these demands within a short time and cite Syrian officials as saying there will be no Syrian-Lebanese summit as long as the situation remains as it is and as long as President al-Jumayyil does not clearly define his stand toward southern Lebanon, which is under Israeli occupation, and toward the Army led by Antoinne Lahad which is collaborating with Israel.

The sources also cite Syrian officials as saying that Syria does not wish its Army to be bogged down in the Lebanese quagmire.

The sources say Syrian officials have told them the question of the Syrian-controlled Arab Deterrent Force [ADF] acting as a buffer between the two sides appears to be a complex problem. We do not wish to intervene militarily at present, particularly since quarters of the Lebanese Forces do not wish this, the Syrians are quoted as saying. We are not prepared to put our forces in a dangerous situation unless there is a full agreement on accepting them and unless President al-Jumayyil offers guarantees. But, the Syrian officials added, we doubt that this will happen. What is certain is that certain parties in the Lebanese forces do not want a security stability conducive to a peaceful solution.

The sources said there is a feeling among the Lebanese officials and even among the Syrian officials that the situation might once again deteriorate seriously in view of the intransigent attitudes toward the work of the Higher Political Security Committee.

Sources close to Walid Junblatt said the Lebanese Front does not wish to change its attitude toward the proposals and security matters being dealt with by the Higher Political Security Committee chaired by President al-Jumayyil. The front wants to maintain the situation as it is in the hope that, on the one hand, disputes will break out between Syria and its allies and that, on the other, developments in Al-Biqa' will be in its favor.

Defense Minister on Terrorism, Other Issues

IDF Base Attack Unconfirmed

TA141950 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1910 GMT 14 Apr 84

[Interview with Defense Minister Moshe Arens by military correspondent Moshe Shlonsky in the Tel Aviv studios]

[Text][Shlonsky] Good evening, Mr Minister. There were reports on Radio Monte Carlo, Lebanese radios, and this morning also in Washington, that a car bomb penetrated one of the IDF bases in Lebanon and that there were dead and wounded people. Is this report true?

[Arens] We have no confirmation of this report: I do not think it is true.

[Shlonsky] Let us proceed to the incident yesterday. [as heard] Is there any information as to which organization is responsible for the terrorist act in the Gaza Strip?

[Arens] It is probably Fatah, although we are not 100 percent certain.

[Shlonsky] Does this mean that it could be another organization?

[Arens] It could be one of the other organizations, but it is probably Fatah.

[Shlonsky] What is the significance of the fact that Fatah, one of the more moderate organizations within the PLO, repeatedly claims responsibility for terrorist acts?

[Arens] I think it is an illusion Israelis should not entertain. There are no moderates in the PLO. It is an umbrella organization for murderous groups from various organizations, who are supported by the Syrians, or the Libyans; and some others are independent, but with a single goal: To wage terrorism against Israel.

[Shlonsky] The terrorists have repeatedly announced over the last few days that they would increase the attacks against civilian targets inside Israel. Today it is already clear that the annihilation of the PLO's terrorism in Lebanon did not lead to the absolute liquidation of terrorism. What is Israel going to do about this threat?

[Arens] I am not sure we should talk about the total liquidation of terrorism. We have been embroiled in a war against terrorism for many years. We scored achievements in this campaign, but it is impossible to talk about a total annihilation. We had something of a lull over the past 2 years as a result of the Peace for Galilee operation, and we see today that the terrorist organizations are trying to prove that they are still alive. These are the unfortunate and painful signs that we feel in Israel.

[Shlonsky] But does Israel intend to employ concrete steps against terrorist acts inside Israel?

[Arens] We engaged in a concrete act on Thursday night. Our policy, as it has been in the past and will continue to be in the future, has been never to capitulate to terrorism. Anyone who plans terrorist acts in Israel must realize he will not escape alive. In addition to this, as you know, we are also employing a different kind of activity, aimed against the terrorist organizations. The terrorist organizations today are not situated in southern Lebanon as they used to be; they are located relatively far away from us in Damascus, Tunis, and southern Yemen, where it is more difficult for them to conduct business. But they are trying to show that they are still alive.

[Shlonsky] Is there no fear that never submitting to terrorist extortion might lead the terrorists to resort to acts of despair that would cost many lives?

[Arens] I think the opposite. If you think for a brief moment about the alternative, of capitulating to them and letting them know that each time they seize a hotel or a bus or anything else we will give in and release from our prisons the terrorists arrested there, I believe this is an alternative we are not at all prepared to contemplate.

[Shlonsky] In other words, under no circumstances will there by capitulation to terrorist extortion, even if this involves great danger to human lives?

[Arens] I would not like to tell you anything in absolute terms. This is our policy, this is the policy that guided us in the past, and this was what directed us on Thursday evening.

[Shlonsky] In the past few months, Israel retaliated for operations against the IDF in Lebanon and acts against civilians in Israel by raiding terrorist bases in Lebanon from the air, and the impression has been created that this has become somewhat routine. Do you not fear that this might be an inappropriate and ineffective reaction to the terrorist acts?

[Arens] There is nothing routine about this; besides which most of these operations did not come in retaliation. We are trying to strike at the terrorists anywhere we are capable and able to locate them, irrespective of this being in retaliation for some sort of activity.

[Shlonsky] Yet the impression is that the terrorists are already anticipating an Air Force reaction, and last week when the terrorists bases were bombed they simply disappeared from the building they were in before.

[Arens] It is very good that they are anticipating our attacks. As a consequence they cannot entrench themselves; it is difficult for them to organize, and they must flee from one place to another. This is cumbersome and decreases their chances of perpetrating terrorists acts against us.

[Shlonsky] Israel claims that Damascus is responsible for a large share of the operations carried out against it — both against the IDF and civilian targets. What operational significance do these threats aimed at Damascus have?

[Arens] We provided that answer a few weeks ago when we used artillery against terrorist bases under the Syrians' control in Lebanon, signalling in no uncertain terms that we are not pre-

pared to accept terrorists moving from the Syrian territory to ours to act against the IDF. We did that about 6 months ago, and as a result there was truly calm along the line; we did this again, and since then there has been a lull which I hope will continue.

[Shlonsky] With your permission, let us move to another topic: At the end of last week, Minister Sharon scored an achievement in the contest at the Herut center. Do you regard Minister Sharon as a candidate for a senior post in the next Cabinet, if the Likud forms the next government?

[Arens] This is a question you should address to him. I understand he announced that he regards himself as a candidate, which is why one can assume that he will be.

[Shlonsky] Will you support his demand to be appointed to one of the most senior posts, in light of his success in the Herut center?

[Arens] You know that bridges can only be crossed once they have been reached. So first let us win the elections, and then when we begin assigning portfolios, we will answer all these questions.

[Shlonsky] Do you have no opinion on the matter as of yet?

[Arens] At this stage there is no need for a position.

[Shlonsky] Thank you very much.

Comments on Syrian Role

TA140943 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0805 GMT 14 Apr 84

[Interview with Defense Minister Moshe Arens by Yitzhaq Ben-Ner and Yosi 'Abadi]

[Text] [Ben-Ner] Professor Arens, it was reported in the news this morning that Israel has complained about Syria to the UN Security Council. The complaint states that Damascus has become a center of terrorism. The question is: Is this a far-reaching change in Damascus' policy, in view of the fact that for the past 1 or 2 years Syria has been preventing terrorist activities from its territory? Can Israel retaliate as in the past against countries that allow terrorists to launch attacks from their territory?

[Arens] This does not represent a far-reaching change. For many years the Syrians have played a certain role and have been in contact with the terrorist organizations. As you know, the PLO included Syrian organizations, which were supported, financed, and whose activities were dictated by the Syrians. As-Sa'iqah was one of the largest. The only thing that has changed since the Peace for Galilee Operation is that the headquarters of the terrorist organizations, which had been located in Beirut, were forced to leave that city. This is why the terrorist headquarters are now located in Damascus, South Yemen, and Tunis.

['Abadi] Does this limit Israel's ability to retaliate for the kind of attacks carried out this week?

[Arens] No, I do not think this limits our ability to act. We have been disturbed about the Syrian approach toward terrorist activities, and we have been particularly disturbed about terrorist activities in Lebanon's eastern sector. We know that in this area the terrorists cannot cross the lines through Syrian-held territory to the areas under our control unless they have the permission of the Syrians and the Syrian Army. Therefore, we announced — and we also made this plain through our artillery — that we will not accept such a situation. This is the second time we have acted in such a way. We did this for the first time 6 months ago and these activities stopped. I am very happy to say that since we used our artillery, we have not had any terrorist activities in the eastern sector, at least not to date.

['Abadi] Is there a connection between the rising tension in the eastern sector, the terrorist attack in Jerusalem, and the attack on the bus?

[Arens] I do not think there is any connection whatsoever. As I have said, the eastern sector has cooled down since then and it may very well be that the other side has not been very careful to see to it that the terrorists do not launch attacks from Syrian-held territories in Lebanon.

['Abadi] Israel has in the past taken preemptive measures against the terrorist organizations in Lebanon. Must Israeli activities at present be confined to defensive measures because most terrorists are now in Syria?

[Arens] We are not limited to defensive activities. As you know, we also act — I have mentioned the artillery and, as you know, we have also used the Air Force. We are on the alert and we act in all those cases when we are able to identify whom we can and must operate against. When we can do this, we act. In addition, we also implement defensive measures.

[Ben-Ner] Professor Arens, let me bring up the affair of the hijacked bus. Terrorists boared a bus — apparently at the Tel Aviv central bus station — with sabotage materiel, rode south, and hijacked it. On the face of it, it would seem that such a situation would be impossible in view of the internal security measures in Israel. Now, however, it suddenly seems so easy.

[Arens] I think it must be clear to everyone of us that this kind of incident is not impossible and I would say that this has never been impossible. Buses in Israel travel freely and anybody can ride a bus. We do not and cannot check every person who gets on a bus. Therefore, such an incident is feasible rather than unfeasible. Of course, there is nothing new about it. As always, we must be alert all the time. This is not only required of the security forces, but also of bus drivers and passengers. As we once again demonstrated on Thursday night, we are prepared to tackle such problems.

['Abadi] How was the decision to raid the bus, the decision to carry out the rescue operation made? Who made the decisions?

[Arens] This was not a difficult decision; it was almost an automatic decision because Israel's long-standing policy has for years been that we will not given in to terrorist blackmail. Incidentally, this is an integral part of the weapons we have

against such operations and against terrorism. Imagine for a moment what would happen if the terrorist organizations believed that whenever they hijack a bus, a plane, or whatever — they have in the past taken over private homes and hotels in Israel — we would capitulate, that all those who participate in terrorist and murderous attacks in Israel would be released — there would be no end to this. If we relatively seldom experience such incidents this is because the other side knows or is at least inclined to believe that there will be no capitulation on our part. In this respect, the raid on the bus on Thursday night represented a reminder that there has been no change whatsoever in our approach to this issue. Whoever tries to carry out such an operation will never leave the State of Israel alive.

['Abadi] Were the terrorists trying to test us, in the wake of the prisoner exchange several months ago?

[Arens] I cannot tell you exactly what their motives were. I am not sure that we should talk in this case about meticulous planning or an attempt to test us. Inasmuch as there was an attempt to test us again, however, we have not only passed the test but we have given an unabiguous reply.

[Ben-Ner] Prof Arens, there have been terrorist attacks in Jerusalem and on a bus along with statements by PLO leaders that terrorism will continue inside Israel's borders: Do you not foresee a situation in which terrorist attacks within Israel will become more frequent?

[Arens] I think it should be clear to us that the terrorist organizations are motivated to attack us. I would not say that their motivation at present is less now than in the past. There was a great deal of talk in Israel when several Katyusha rockets fell in the Galilee recently. Some say that this illustrates the argument for withdrawing the IDF from Lebanon. In fact, exactly the opposite conclusion should be drawn. We can see that the motivation exists. If the IDF were to withdraw from Lebanon today, these people would make life in the Galilee impossible and hellish; this is their motivation. Their ability is limited; their ability to attack the Galilee is very restricted; their ability to attack Israeli citizens throughout the country is also limited, but the motivation is there.

['Abadi] This seems to be a return, as the prime minister put it, to the methods used by the PLO in the 1970's. Do you regard this as an accomplishment or a failure of the Peace for Galilee operation?

[Arens] I think the results of the Peace for Galilee operation are clear. It has almost been 2 years since a man, woman, or child in the Galilee has been hurt — these are the results of the Peace for Galilee operation. As I have said, although the desire and motivation to hurt us are there, their ability is very limited. Also, the fact that terrorist headquarters are not currently located in Beirut but are rather dispersed in Damascus, South Yemen, and Tunis — there is no doubt that this also limits their ability. We can well imagine that if they were still in Beirut we would have to tackle more difficult problems.

[Ben-Ner] Prof Arens, to conclude this interview perhaps we will leave the issue of security to discuss domestic politics. Does Minister Sharon's achievement in the Herut Central Committee convention affect your position as defense minister and the support you receive for your activities?

[Arens] No, this does not have any effect at all. I am the defense minister and, presumably, I will continue to be the defense minister, at least until the election. I receive the full support of the entire Cabinet and the Likud in discharging these duties.

[Ben-Ner] Mr Minister, *MA'ARIV* yesterday carried a report that a new deployment on our northern border with Lebanon should be expected before the elections. Is that correct?

[Arens] Those who prophecy a different IDF deployment in southern Lebanon cannot be wrong, in the sense that this is our goal. We are building the means to carry this out, in order to ensure an IDF pullout from at least certain parts of southern Lebanon and, ultimately, from all of southern Lebanon without endangering the lives of the Galilee's inhabitants. Those who want to set a certain date for such a move, however, would be taking a great risk. Moreover, I ask all those who hold dear the lives of our soldiers in southern Lebanon not to exert pressure, not to give the impression in southern Lebanon that we are leaving within a week or a month. This only hinders our efforts, both in terms of our presence and deployment there and all the preparations we are making to enable the IDF's pullout.

['Abadi] I assume that political elements may exert pressure on you to carry out a redeployment in Lebanon before the election.

[Arens] Pressure on me will not work. I will do everything I can as far as Israel's security interests are concerned to prevent or reduce to the minimum the threat to the lives of IDF personnel in the area. This might only affect the local inhabitants and all those means we are fostering in southern Lebanon. The moment they begin thinking that we are leaving the next day, even if we do manage to foster these means, it will be more difficult for us in southern Lebanon.

[Ben-Ner] In other words, electoral considerations will not affect security.

[Arens] I can assure you that there will not be an electoral security policy.

['Abadi] Mr Defense Minister, we thank you very much.

Further on Syrian Role

TA160556 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 16 Apr 84

[Text] Defense Minister Moshe Arens says that Israel is making it clear to Syria that it will not put up with a situation in which the Syrians are involved in terrorist activity, and Israel hopes there will be a change on the part of the Syrians. Minister Arens spoke with correspondents in the Rambam Hospital, at the end of a visit to wounded IDF soldiers on the occasion of Passover. Our correspondent Shula Shmerling reports:

[Begin recording] [Shmerling] Moshe Arens cannot say with certainty that Syria is directly responsible for the bus attack, but we know that most of the PLO organizations' commands are based in Damascus. Many of them receive Syrian support, so there is no argument that part of the terrorist activity is perpetrated with Syrian consent, at least, if not Syrian support.

In an impromptu news conference at the hospital, fresh from his visit to the wounded soldiers, the minister talked about the funeral of the woman soldier killed in the bus attack and answered questions:

[Arens — in English] We are trying to make it very clear to the Syrians that this is a situation that [break in transmission] to the Syrians. We have had problems in which the Syrians clearly were directly involved.

[Shmerling — translates and continues] We are trying to make it clear to the Syrians that this is a situation which we cannot accept, Arens said, and we hope that their attitude will change. The fact is that there have been cases in which the Syrians were directly and clearly involved in PLO activity along the line separating Israeli and Syrian forces in Lebanon. We reacted firmly, Arens said, we made our position crystal clear, and this kind of activity has indeed stopped. We therefore hope that the message was driven home and understood.

[Arens] Terror, as is well known, is the soft belly of every free and democratic society. There is no terror in totalitarian regimes. We have great achievements but it is never enough since there are attacks. We know that the terrorist organizations that were dealt a blow in Lebanon are trying to prove that they are still active and can still harm us.

[Shmerling] The defense minister was asked to react to remarks by Shim'on Peres that a rapid pullback from Lebanon can be implemented.

[Arens] I am inclined to think that he is not entirely knowledgeable about the details, the difficulties we are facing, in order to get those security arrangements which will make an exit from Lebanon possible without any harm to the Galilee residents. We have dealt intensively with this for some time now. Our intention is to get out of there as soon as possible, but we do not want to adopt any move which will result in attacks against the residents of the Galilee, the women and children there. [end recording]

On Death Penalty, Lavi

TA160640 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 16 Apr 84

[Text] Defense Minister Moshe Arens says this is not the time to talk about death sentences for captured terrorists. Speaking at a Herut gathering in Haifa, Arens noted the terrorists are holding Israeli soldiers captive too. On Friday Deputy Knesset Speaker Me'ir Kohen-Avidov declared captured terrorists should be hanged. Arens also talked about the importance of the Lavi fighter plane project. He said it is essential to have the best possible equipment. He noted the Lavi plane would give Israel a weapon that is unknown to its enemies. He pointed out that the F-15 and F-16 fighter planes have been sold to the Arabs by the United States so Israel's enemies are now familiar with them. He warned that stopping the Lavi project would threaten Israel's qualitative edge over its enemies.

uf headlineEnvoy Accuses UN of Encouraging Terrorism
TA140612 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 14 Apr 84

[Text] Israel has complained to the UN Security Council over the hijacking of the civilian bus near Ashqelon on Thursday night. Ambassador Yehuda Blum accused the United Nations of encouraging terrorism by granting observer status to the PLO. In a letter to the council president, Blum also said that Damascus has become a center for international terror and the Popular Front which claimed responsibility is headquartered in the Syrian capital.

Family Homes of 4 Bus Hijackers Destroyed

NC141044 Paris AFP in English 0929 GMT 14 Apr 84

[Text] Jerusalem, April 14 (AFP) — Israeli Security Forces today destroyed the homes of the families of the four Arabs who hijacked an Israeli civilian bus on the Gaza Strip yesterday, Palestinian sources said here.

The sources also identified the four hijackers, who were all killed when an Israeli commando unit stormed the bus near the Egyptian border and rescued the 45 passengers. One of the passengers, however, a woman in the Israeli Army, was killed, and seven were injured.

The names of the assailants were given as Jamal Kablam; Subhi Abu-Jum'a; Muhammad Abu-Barak; and Naji Abu-Jum'a, all aged 18.

One of them had just finished secondary school and another had served for several months in the Israeli police force.

For some years the Israeli Army has consistently destroyed the homes of terrorists in reprisal despite the protests that such actions cause in pacifist circles.

Civilian Administrator Comments

TA150650 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 15 Apr 84

[Interview with Brigadier General Avraham Binyamin, the head of the Civilian Administration in the Gaza Strip, by 'Oded Ben-'Amin "last night"; place not given — recorded]

[Text] [Ben-Ami] The houses of the four terrorists who took control of the Egged bus on Thursday were demolished 3 hours after the identity of the terrorists was learned. Brig Gen Avraham Binyamin, it is not customary to carry out the demolition of terrorists' houses, as was the case Friday morning. [as heard] Why and how was the action carried out so quickly?

[Binyamin] Let me tell you: the policy of the military authorities is generally one of extending aid to a quiet population and of fostering social welfare services. However, anyone who misbehaves and harms innocent civilians should undoubtedly pay the price for this, the dearest price possible. One should remember that we want to achieve maximum deterrence, as part of the price paid for terrorist acts, and it was therefore decided to tear down the terrorists' houses. Furthermore, there was no problem of identification in this case since the terrorists were in our hands and the details were known; we reached their houses according to the addresses found in their clothes. Following a check and a consultation it was decided to issue the demolition order.

[Ben-'Ami] Was the decision about tearing down the houses made by the senior echelons that were at the bus scene in the Gaza Strip?

[Binyamin] Generally speaking, yes.

[Ben-'Ami] Did the demolition of the houses proceed quietly, without protests?

[Binyamin] We carried this out with bulldozers which were brought from a nearby site. As a partial curfew was imposed on the areas where the demolition was carried out, there were no problems involved. Generally speaking, the families, the neighbors, in fact, anticipated such an act by the military authorities.

[Ben-'Ami] Is the region quiet now?

[Binyamin] It was quiet all Saturday long.

Cabinet Meets, Discusses Terrorism, Sinai

TA151205 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1150 GMT 15 Apr 84

[Text] The Cabinet meeting is over. Let us go over to our political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer at the prime minister's office in Jerusalem:

[Schiffer] The defense minister, the chief of staff, and the commander of the southern command reviewed the terrorist attack on the bus near the Ashdod junction and the rescue operation by the security forces. This was stated in the government's announcement. At the end of the reviews, a discussion was held and in conclusion the prime minister congratulated the security forces on their action. This part of the Cabinet meeting was in the framework of the Ministerial Committee on Security Affairs.

The prime minister reported on the transfer of the El Salvador Embassy to Jerusalem. The Cabinet held a comprehensive discussion on the draft resolution of restricting the duration of investigating suspects, a draft resolution submitted by Minister Yitzhaq Moda'i. On this issue the Cabinet also heard the opinion of the interior minister, the attorney general, the police inspector general and the head of the police investigations division. The discussion of this issue ended and a vote on the draft resolution will take place in the Cabinet's next meeting.

We have learned that Defense Minister Moshe Arens gave the ministers details about the Egyptians' logistical deployment beyond the Suez Canal, in the Sinai. As Arens expressed himself in the past these logistical preparations were begun during the term of Ari'el Sharon as defense mininster. In the future the Cabinet will hold a discussion of the issues concerning the implementation of the military annex in the Israeli-Egyptian peace treaty.

Shamir on Peace for Galilee, Terrorism

TA160848 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 16 Apr 84 pp 14, 15

[Interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir by Shmu'el Schnitzer, Dov Goldstein, and Refa'el Mann — 13 April, place not given]

[Excerpts] *MA'ARIV*: The public has the feeling that at least one of the basic goals of the Peace for Galilee campaign has not been attained. Even if we give up the hope that a stable and pro-Israeli regime might have been established in Lebanon, there was the expectation that the security situation would be basically improved after we destroyed the PLO infrastructure. It now turns out that the PLO is continuing to work against us even without a territorial infrastructure in Lebanon. We have had quite intensive terrorist activity recently, even in the absence of an infrastructure.

Prime Minister: We destroyed the PLO artillery and rocket terrorism in Lebanon. A special threat to Israel had developed there, with the PLO organizing almost a military force near our border, with the deployment of hundreds of artillery and rocket nests — Katyushas — which could and did attack us in coordination on as large a scale as they wanted. That was a real threat, and not just of sporadic terrorist action. It was essential to destroy it. That terrorism also had a political threat, since the PLO aimed at dictating terms to us at a certain moment. That has been destroyed.

Now some time has passed since that threat was destroyed; it is almost 2 years now. The leaders of the organizations that had been dispersed all over the place — and there are still thousands of terrorists in the world whose profession is terrorism and who do nothing except that — are now making a renewed attempt to carry out whatever actions they can against Israel. They are now trying to go back to the same actions they have undertaken from time to time since the beginning of the 1970's.

It is impossible to eliminate all possibilities of terrorist action. There are terrorist actions throughout the world now. There is almost no capital of a Western country where there are no terrorist actions from time to time. However, I think the terrorist organizations' chances of disrupting our lives are most limited now.

We must also take into account the development of relations and links between Jordan and the PLO, and between Egypt and the PLO. It is true that these links are considered to be political, but links with organizations of this type can always develop in the direction of terrorist operations. At one time we warned Egypt

not to follow that path because of the danger I have described, not only because of the political link, and we are sending warnings to Jordan in this direction via our friends.

MA'ARIV: Do we have any information that the attack against the bus originated in links of this type?

Shamir: No, but there is such a possibility. We know that the leaders of the terrorist organizations have a tendency to demonstrate they are alive.

MA'ARIV: Does this mean that we can expect "100 years of terrorism?"

Shamir: There can also be 1,000 years of terrorism, but this is not a serious factor in Israeli reality. We must know how to fight against this, just as we must know how to fight against all forms of crime from which we are suffering, but this is not a genuine danger to our lives, our development. We do not publicize every success by the security services in foiling terrorist actions, and there are many such attempts that we foil. We may have to face thousands of years of terrorism. Jews must know how to live with enemies, and defend themselves against them.

MA'ARIV: Perhaps in the end we will come out with a loss? We destroyed the terrorist infrastructure in Lebanon and forced them to look for other paths, as they are now doing; but in addition our alertness has lessened.

Shamir: Not at all. The danger in Lebanon had to be destroyed because it was unlike any terrorist action anywhere in the world. That was a genuine threat, with at one stroke a barrage of Katyushas or artillery fire being thrown at you any time of the day or night. That had to be destroyed, the territorial base had to be taken away from them. Once we saw such cases of terrorism in Vietnam. We remember Katyushas and artillery being used against U.S. bases and bases belonging to the Vietnamese regime. That was something very grave and dangerous, and we had to destroy it, without any connection with the fact that another type of terrorism might exist. The destruction of that threat has not eliminated the other attempts they are making, whose importance should not be exaggerated. We can also look at what happened, after all. The four terrorists who carried out the bus hijack yesterday were killed. Not one of them emerged alive.

MA'ARIV: What emerges from the two latest attacks, in the heart of Jerusalem and against the bus, is a much greater willingness by the terrorists to jeopardize themselves, to take many more risks than in the past.

Shamir: Every terrorist action requires its perpetrators to jeopardize themselves, sometimes more, sometimes less. There is nothing new in this. Have we already forgotten Ma'alot, Avivim, Qiryat Shemona, the Savoy Hotel, and the bloody bus? This is nothing new.

Hatred of Israel has not stopped. The desire to attack Israel has not passed from the world. We must know how to live with it and defend ourselves. Even when there is peace with all the Arab countries I do not know whether terrorism against us will end.

MA'ARIV: Mr Prime Minister, on several occasions you spoke about the chance of Israel getting out of Lebanon soon. Do you now see a chance in the near future — within weeks or months — of getting out of there?

Shamir: We have never wanted to stay in Lebanon for a long time. We wanted to go in, destroy the PLO bases, and get out. We are now stuck there because we want to guarantee that they will not return to the region close to the border, and we are constantly searching for an arrangement or arrangements that will permit us to leave Lebanon. In the near future we may reach a situation in which we will be able to leave without jeopardizing the Galilee's peace. We are working in that direction, we are reinforcing the southern army of Lebanon. There is a new commander who is beginning to work on a larger scale, more in depth. We may be able to give that force more missions and we will be able to give it more territory, so that it can be responsible for security there. We are also doing other things in that direction. I hope we will not need to invest IDF forces and resources in Lebanon for a long time.

MA'ARIV: What will you reply to the claims being made that this government is showing a lack of decision on the Lebanese issue, and that making the arrangements permiting our departure is taking too long?

Shamir: It is not the decisions or nondecisions by the government that are holding things up, we have simply not yet reached such a situation that will permit us to decide on an IDF pullout. There are always decisions. All the time there are decisions about what to do in this direction, and the main thing is not rapidity of decision, but making the right decision.

MA'ARIV: Do we have a timetable for leaving Lebanon? We know the connection between Lebanon and the election is not one you like, but will the withdrawal begin before we go to the polls?

Shamir: There is no connection with the election. If someone imagines that this will occur in June or July, he can draw such a conclusion. But there is no connection between this and the election date. We cannot yet set a timetable, but we are making a special effort to create such a situation that will permit us to do so.

MA'ARIV: Is it impossible, for example, to set a date today for when, in our assessment, the southern army of Lebanon will be in a position to allow us to leave?

Shamir: The southern army of Lebanon does not resemble any standing army in the world, and we must see how it succeeds in its missions, how it is accepted. After all, it is not a normal army, and there are other elements in the field that can influence such a decision. In any event, when conditions are ripe there will be decisions and plans, and there will be a timetable.

MA'ARIV: Would you repeat the promise to the inhabitants of the north today, "No more Katyushas," after several Katyushas have already fallen on the Galilee despite our being in Lebanon?

Shamir: It is not a matter of a promise. It is the goal. We do not want Galilee to be under such dangers. If something like that happens once in a blue moon, it should not be regarded as something terrible. But what happened before then must not return.

MA'ARIV: After the abrogation of the agreement with Lebanon, whatis the nature of the relations forming between us and Amin al-Jumayyil's regime?

Shamir: To my great regret, there is no such regime. But we do have good relations with all there is in Lebanon, with the sects and military organizations of all types. Through these relations and ties, we are trying to arrive at a situation in which we will be able to maintain the security of our border even without a military presence.

MA'ARIV: During the first stages of the Iraq-Iran war, there was a prevalent assessment here that the protracted fight was good for Israel. Today there is a different approach, saying that both sides are increasing their military power and strength. We have come to the same conclusion regarding Syria: Once we thought it had been beaten in the Peace for Galilee campaign, and now it is increasing its power. Do inter-Arab wars and inter-Muslim wars work for or against us?

Shamir: Wars between our enemies work to our benefit. They at least give us more time, and in fact that is the main thing we need. With Iraq, as one of the countries most hostile to Israel, as long as it is busy in a war against another country, it is certainly not free to do things against Israel. It has already been 3 and 1/2 years since the war broke out, and that is a long time in our situation. It is clear that they are weakening each other. It is true that they are receiving resources, but they are being thrown away in battles and their resources are being thinned out.

When Saddam Husayn started the war, he thought he would have an easy victory in a short time, because Iran was destroyed. All the experts evaluated that he hoped, through that victory, to win the crown of the leader of the Arab world. If that had happened, Iraq would have been the spearhead for a confrontation with Israel. In the meantime all the cards have been upset. When the war began, Egyptian leaders told me that Saddam Husayn wanted to become the An-Nasir of the Arab world. He did not succeed in that, and Israel has not been harmed by it.

As for Syria: Of course, when an Arab country suffers a defeat by us, it does not accept that defeat for any length of time. The Egyptian defeat in 1956 did not stop them from resuming their tendencies and intentions in 1967. And the defeat then did not stop the attack in 1973. There is no "one blow and it is over" in any war. On the one hand, we must win wars when they happen, and on the other, we must, through political and security measures, try to postpone these attempts as far as possible and deter the neighboring countries from a war against us. I think we are doing this with considerable success. This is also correct as far as Syria is concerned.

The Soviet deterrence and warnings we have recently been hearing prove Syria's fear or nervousness about Israeli attacks.

MA'ARIV: Is there something new in the Soviet warnings, in the fact that they are warning against our attacking the Syrian Army, not only in the Golan Heights but in Lebanon, too?

Shamir: We have examined the text and it is just like in the past in similar incidents. There is nothing new.

MA'ARIV: The Likud spoke about populating Judaea and Samaria with at least 100,000 people, but by the end of the current government's term of office 40,000 settlers are the most that can be expected. Does this slow pace not disappoint you? Have you reached a situation in which what has been done cannot be altered by another government?

Shamir: We have made very serious progress in the field of settlement throughout Eretz Yisra'el. Thirty thousand people is a considerable number, but I would like the number to be larger. If the nation gives us the vote, there will be more. Already, in the foreseeable future, thousands more housing units will be completed. In a short time there will be 60,000 there and this is continuing.

There are ups and downs in every settlement project. We remember this from the past in Israel. We welcomed private settlement in Judaea and Samaria, and we will encourage it in future, but these are matters in which control is not always in our hands.

MA'ARIV: There is a feeling that the Ministerial Committee on Settlement Affairs is trying to take advantage of the remaining months to do certain things, perhaps from fear that power will pass into other hands.

Shamir: I do not know what its reasoning is, but the things it decides upon are in the pipeline. These are things that were planned, and it is good that there are decisions according to which actions can be planned for the future.

MA'ARIV: There is a prevailing assessment that the damage caused by the U.S. Congress' initiative about transferring the U.S. Embassy to Jerusalem could be greater than its benefit, because of the unambiguous statements on this issue by President Reagan and administration leaders. Do you share this assessment?

Shamir: I do not accept that thesis. It is true that initiative was not ours, but that of our U.S. friends, but we have no interest in preventing such an initiative. The very fact of the debate, the very fact of more than 50 percent support of the members of the House of Representatives and almost 50 percent of the Senate for a draft law to transfer the embassy, has great political value. Even if the draft law has not been approved at present, it has importance for the future. The administration's statements of opposition do not damage the importance of that proposal in principle. In fact, what the administration is saying does not contradict the people who proposed the law, but it does oppose the timing. They are insisting that this must come as a result of political negotiations in the area.

I think that all this discussion in the wake of the initiative will further the need to eliminate once and for all this anomaly of embassies that are not situated in our capital, Jerusalem.

David Levi, Shamir on Relations With FRG

TA150547 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 15 Apr 84

[Text] Deputy Prime Minister David Levi says friendly relations between West Germany and Israel will be impossible if Bonn goes ahead with possible arms sales to Arab countries. In an interview with the West German newspaper *BILD AM SONNTAG*, Levi said it would not be possible to speak of friendly relations and a changed atmosphere if Germany behaves as if it would one day sell arms to countries that want to do Israel harm.

Also taking part in the interview was Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir. He said Israel is still waiting for a decision from West Germany about the arms sales, but has received no assurance so far that it would not sell to the Arab countries. Shamir added the gloomy atmosphere which dominated Chancellor Kohl's visit to Israel last January is still there.

Sharon Meets With Shamir on Elections

TA151619 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 15 Apr 84

[Text] Ari'el Sharon says that his position in the Likud's Knesset list does not interest him at all; what interests him arethe chances of beating the Alignment. Our political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer reports that this was said by Sharon in a meeting he held with Yitzhaq Shamir this afternoon. According to sources in the prime minister's office, Sharon expressed his willingness to carry out any duty in the election campaign. It was said that the meeting between the two occurred in a good atmosphere.

U.S. - Jordanian Exercises To Continue Despite Protest

TA150549 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 15 Apr 84

[Text] The United States and Jordan will continue to carry out joint military exercises. This is reported by our political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer. Our correspondent mentions that lately Israel has complained to the United States that it had not been informed of such an exercise in Jordan. Israel's protest was conveyed by the defense minister to U.S. Ambassador Samuel Lewis. Fifty Americans and 250 Jordanians participated in the exercise. Ambassador Lewis explained that involved is a series of joint exercises, and expressed surprise at the fact that Israel had no prior knowledge.

Concern Over Possible Syrian Return to Beirut

TA150957 Tel Aviv HATZOFE in Hebrew 15 Apr 84 p 1

[News agencies report]

[Excerpt] Although Israel agreed in 1976 to a Syrian intervention in Lebanon, within certain limits and boundaries, it is concerned about reports regarding the possible return of Syrian forces to Beirut.

Foreign Ministry Director General David Kimche said in an interview to a Lebanese magazine that he cannot conceive of the Lebanese considering an invitation to the Syrian forces to return to Beirut.

U.S.'s Murphy Delegation 'Secretly' Visits Mideast

TA150956 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 15 Apr 84 p 2

["Exclusive" report by 'Uzi Benziman]

[Text] Washington — The U.S. delegation headed by Richard Murphy, the assistant secretary of state for Near Eastern and South Asian affairs, currently in the Middle East, is mainly aiming at convincing the Persian Gulf countries of the U.S. ability to defend them against Iranian subversion.

The *HA'ARETZ* correspondent has learned that the delegation left for the Middle East secretly after reports had reached the Washington administration that the rulers of the Persian Gulf countries are afraid that the United States is unable to provide them with defense. These fears arose following the U.S. withdrawal from Lebanon. The suspicious attitude of the Persian Gulf rulers vis-a-vis the United States even motivated some of them to reconsider their willingness to establish in their countries infrastructure systems for the use of the U.S. Army, as well as holding joint maneuvers with the Army.

In order to repel such a tendency, which reflects a grave blow to the credibility of the U.S. deterrence and defensive power in the Middle East, a delegation of senior Pentagon and State Department officials was established. This delegation, led by Murphy, is currently visiting the Middle East, especially the Persian Gulf region, in an effort to restore U.S. credibility and to guarantee continued cooperation between the countries there and the United States.

A proposal is now being considered by the U.S. Administration to send a high-level official to the region in order to emphasize the U.S. commitment to it. Attention was paid in Washington to the dinner Saudi Ambassador Prince Bandar gave in honor of Soviet Ambassador Dobrynin.

Radio Cites NEWSWEEK on Al-Asad's Condition

TA161108 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1102 GMT 16 Apr 84

[Text] *NEWSWEEK* this morning reported that a deterioration has occurred in Al-Asad's condition. Our monitor Mikha'el Gurdus reports that persistent rumors prevailing among Western journalist sources were that President al-Asad has already died.

At the same time, our monitor notes that the Damascus radio stations are carrying normal broadcasts for the time being, and there is no sign in these broadcasts to confirm the rumors prevailing in the West.

ALGERIA

U.S. Envoy Delivers Reagan Message to Bendjedid

LD151249 Algiers Domestic Service in French 1200 GMT 15 Apr 84

[Text] A message from President Reagan to President Chadli Bendjedid has just been handed over to the Foreign Affairs Ministry by the U.S. ambassador to Algiers.

Swedish Foreign Minister Bodstrom Interviewed

LD151008 Algiers APS in Arabic 0800 GMT 15 Apr 84

[Excerpts] Algiers, 15 Apr (APS) — On the occasion of his official visit to Algeria from 15 to 17 April at the invitation of Dr Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi, member of the FLN Politburo and minister of foreign affairs, Lennart Bodstrom, Swedish foreign minister, gave an exclusive interview to APS in which he talked about Algerian-Swedish relations and international issues.

Mr Bodstrom stressed the wish of the Swedish Government to develop and deepen Algerian-Swedish relations. He particularly stressed that the two countries hold the same views on a number of important international issues involving international security and peace and justice in the world.

The head of Swedish diplomacy added that there is mutual respect and a mutual wish to have a dialogue on vital international issues, and this includes issues on which the two governments do not share the same views.

Mr Bodstrom talked about the existing areas of disturbances and tensions, especially the Palestinian problem, the Gulf conflict, the Western Sahara, and southern Africa. He said that naturally there is no international solution which can be applied to all cases.

On the matter of Palestine, the Swedish minister of foreign affairs considers that Israel must withdraw from [word indistinct] territories and recognize the Palestinian people's right to self-determination, including the right to establish their own state, and that this is a basic precondition for a general solution to the conflict.

Concerning the Iraq-Iran conflict, Mr Bodstrom expressed his country's hopes for finding a peaceful solution as soon as possible, and said: "The Swedish Government will continue to exert every effort to reach a just, peaceful solution acceptable to both sides."

For the Western Sahara, Sweden believes that any decision concerning its future must be based on real consultations with the inhabitants of the country and must agree with their freely expressed will. The Swedish Government considers the issue of the Western Sahara to be a colonial problem that has not been solved. Sweden received with satisfaction the 1981 Nairobi resolution and the resolution of the 19th OAU summit in 1983. Mr Bodstrom added that Sweden has also supported the resolutions which included self-determination for the Saharan people and holding a referendum since 1976 in the UN.

Nujoma Leads SWAPO Delegation on Visit to Algiers

LD150943 Algiers Domestic Service in French 0600 GMT 15 Apr 84

[Text] Mr Sam Nujoma, SWAPO president, has been in Algiers since yesterday evening. He is leading an important delegation. Speaking to the press, the SWAPO leader underlined he would have talks with FLN officials on the latest developments in South Africa. Mr Nujoma paid particular tribute to Algeria's revolutionary policies towards the liberation movements in the world and vigorously denounced the racist regime of Pretoria.

APS Interviews SWAPO Leader

LD161050 Algiers APS in English 1000 GMT 16 Apr 84

[Text] Algiers, 16-4-84 (APS) — "SWAPO supports the demand of the People's Republic of Angola that South African troops must quit Angolan territory and condemns South Africa aggressive acts against Angola," Mr Sam Nujoma, SWAPO president, said in a talk to the Algerian news agency APS.

Mr Nujoma who flew in Saturday said the agreement on the disengagement of forces between Angola and South Africa is actually an agreement on the withdrawing of Pretoria's racist troops from south Angola. He recalled on this purpose that these troops are occupying this part of the Angolan territory since August 1981 and that "due to the heroic resistance of the Angolan national army this occupation turned to be a real fiasco".

SWAPO president further added there is a definite difference between the disengagement agreement between Angola and South Africa and the non-aggression agreement between Mozambique and South Africa.

"The Mozambican agreement with the racist South Africa is an agreement, in the view of SWAPO, uncalled for," Mr. Nujoma underlined adding as a freedom fighter [words indistinct] witnessed scores of victories over fascism, colonialism in Algeria, Guinea-Bissau, Angola, Zimbabwe and even Mozambique. "This so-called non-aggression agreement will not save the collapse of the Botha racist regime".

As a matter of fact, SWAPO president went on, the 21 million Africans of South Africa who are denied basic human rights and pushed into so-called bantustans which are nothing but similar to Nazi-Hitler concentration camps, these peoples will resist and their resistance will be crowned with the fine victory.

Evoking prospects for Namibia's independance, Mr. Nujoma expressed confidence that "our struggle will soon been crowned with victory because we believe that independence of Namibia lies within the hands of the Namibian people," Nujoma said.

LIBYA

Al-Qadhdhafi Receives Message From Junblatt

LD151712 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 15 Apr 84

[Text] The brother leader of the revolution received a message from Brother Walid Junblatt, chairman of the Progressive Socialist Party in Lebanon, which says:

The relations of brotherhood and joint struggle that link the Jamahiriyah and the Progressive Socialist Party are pan-Arab and include destiny strengthened by embarking on the common battle in defense of the integrity of his nation and taking responsibility for its protection. In our opinion, the pan-Arab battle is an undivided whole and Arab blood is the same wherever it flows, as long it protects Arab honor. As a revolutionary who has fought imperialism and paid the price for the integrity and dignity of your country and people, you undoubtedly appreciate its value.

The victories achieved in Lebanon with the blood of its sons are largely a result of the absolute political, moral, and material support offered by the Jamahiriyah under your courageous revolutionary leadership, to which the most brilliant pages of contemporary Arab history will be devoted, and which will not be forgotten by the coming Arab generations when they feel the taste of freedom, dignity, and peace. In the profusion of our struggle on this front, where the blood of thousands of martyrs has flown, we stress to you that we are following up your struggle in confronting imperialist and reactionary forces and we are at constant and absolute readiness to join the battle beside you.

Egyptian Defense Minister's 'Braggery' Hides Fear

LD141646 Tripoli JANA in English 1458 GMT 14 Apr 84

[Text] Tripoli, Rajab 14, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY — The Egyptian Defence Minister Abu Ghazalah has boasted that Egypt has enough forces in the western desert to secure its borders with Libya.

At the same time, Abu Ghazalah admitted to press correspondents who were covering the U.S.-Egyptian joint military manoeuvres near the Suez Canal that Egypt has hundreds of troops in Sudan.

Abu Ghazalah's braggery over the Egyptian regime's possession of enough troops on the Egyptian-Libyan border can only be justified by the fact that the Egyptian regime fully realizes the truth of the rising revolutionary tide in Libya to confront the disgraceful situation arising from the conclusion of the treaty of shame and dishonour between regime and the Zionist enemy and all subservient policies adopted by pro-American regimes.

Thus, the Egyptian regime's military mobilization is an expression of its fear and terror.

It would have been better for this regime if this military mobilization was aimed at liberating Sinai and Tabah and confronting the Zionist enemy. But we know that this regime will never be [word indistinct] to do so because of its coward policies [word indistinct] by the Camp David humiliating treaty.

Instead of answering back the statement made by the Israeli war minister which said that Egypt is consolidating its defences in Sinai in violation of the Camp David treaty, Abu Ghazalah announced that his regime is mobilizing enough troops on the border with Libya to reassure the Zionist enemy that Egyptian forces are in confrontation of Libya, not Israel.

In the same respect, Abu Ghazalah also admitted the presence of Egyptian troops in Sudan, a fact refuted earlier by the head of the Egyptian regime. Abu Ghazalah admitted that Egypt has hundreds of military men in Sudan, some of whom are manning the Sudanese air defence systems.

This official announcement by a military man indeed confirms the deterioration of the situation in Sudan and the shaking of the fascist regime there as a result of the popular revolution there. It also gives evidence that Egypt's military involvement in Sudan is not in the interest of either Sudanese or Egyptian people but is in fact against their will. It is also a shameful mission entrusted to this regime by the U.S. Government to intervene in the internal affairs of the Sudanese people and oppose their will to get rid of an unjust regime linked to the West which has directly harmed the history and struggle of the Sudanese people and the entire Arab nation.

'Arafat's Group Plotting Terrorist Acts at Embassies

LD141651 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1550 GMT 14 Apr 84

[Text] Tripoli 14 Apr (JANA) — News reports have revealed that 'Arafat's group is currently preparing to carry out a terrorist scheme aimed at the Arab Libyan People's Bureaus [embassies] and those working in them in Budapest, Djibouti, and Bucharest. The same information has revealed that Amin al-Hindi, Abu Iyad's deputy, is currently present in Belgrade to supervise the implementation of the said subversive and terrorist operations. (?Abu al-Tayib Ahmad), the information added, who is one of 'Arafat's supporters and currently in Tunis, is the one who planned the criminal operation aimed at the secretary of the Arab Libyan People's Bureau in Rome on 21 January.

These aggressive actions by 'Arafat and his group fall within the framework of the terrorist design aiming at the Arab Libyan Brotherhood and People's Bureaus abroad.

It is noteworthy that the Pakistani authorities had discovered at the beginning of last March a terrorist plan prepared by 'Arafat and his group to attack the Arab Libyan People's Bureau and the Syrian Embassy in Pakistan, and to murder a number of Libyan and Syrian officials, following which Pakistani authorities expelled four officials working at the PLO consulate in Karachi and another group of Palestinian students whose involvement with 'Arafat and his group's schemes was proved.

Foreign Secretary Meets With Algerian Envoy

LD150732 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 0115 GMT 15 Apr 84

[Text] The secretary of the People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison conferred last evening with the Algerian minister of information and personal envoy of President Chadli Bendjedid who arrived in Tripoli yesterday at noon.

During the meeting they discussed the current Arab situation and international issues of common interest.

Iranian Envoy Meets With Foreign Liaison Official

GF141740 Tehran IRNA in English 1718 GMT 14 Apr 84

[Text] Tehran, April 14, IRNA — The Islamic Republic ambassador to Libya, Mohammad Kazem Nahansari, met and conferred with Dr. 'Ali Abd as-Salam at-Turayki, foreign liaison to the General People's Committee of Libya, in Tripoli Friday.

(?In) this meeting talks on the expansion of the brotherly relations and mutual ties between the two countries were discussed and views exchanged. The Islamic Republic ambassador also forwarded an invitation letter from the Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati to him to make a visit to Iran.

This invitation was welcomed by the Libyan official who said that he would make a visit to Iran on the first occasion.

Israeli-Cameroon Talks, Agreement Reported

LD141659 Tripoli JANA in English 1427 GMT 14 Apr 84

[Text] Paris, Rajab 14, April 14, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY — The general director of the Zionist Foreign Ministry has met with the President of Cameroon Paul Biya during his recent visit to Cameroon.

French sources in Paris yesterday confirmed that the Zionist official recently visited Cameroon and held talks with officials there concentrating on the resumption of relations between the 2 regimes.

He also signed with them an agreement according to which the Zionist enemy would grant a 500 million dollar loan to Cameroon.

MOROCCO

Prime Minister Lamrani Returns From Visit to France

LD131355 Rabat MAP in English 1225 GMT 13 Apr 84

[Excerpt] Casablanca, April 13 (MAP) — Mr Mohamed Karim Lamrani, Moroccan prime minister, returned home Thursday afternoon after a three day working visit to France.

During his stay in Paris Mr Lamrani was received by French President, Francois Mitterrand, and had talks with his French counterpart, Mr Pierre Mauroy, the French minister of economy and finance, Mr Jacques Delors, and the chairman of the National Board of the French Patronate (CNFF), Mr Yvan Gattaz.

Lamrani Reviews Trip

LD132216 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 13 Apr 84

[Text] Prime Minister Mohamed Karim Lamrani has shed more light on the results of his visit to France, on the situation in North Africa, and the measures to be taken by the Jerusalem Committee under the chairmanship of His Majesty King Hassan II in light of its extraordinary meeting.

The prime minister stressed to the newspaper *ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT* that His Majesty King Hassan II, chairman of the Jerusalem Committee, will hold extensive talks in Washington with the administration of U.S. President Ronald Reagan following the extraordinary meeting of the Jerusalem Committee. He will inform the Americans of the concern of the Islamic states over the consequences of passing the resolution on moving the headquarters of the U.S. Embassy to occupied Jerusalem.

On the other hand, the prime minister affirmed Moroccan readiness to hold the referendum in Western Sahara but it cannot wait indefinitely. In this connection, he said that Morocco is waiting to see the result of the OAU summit. Morocco is in its own Sahara and will remain there.

About Moroccan-Algerian relations, the prime minister said that they are frozen now despite the opening of the border between the two countries. He pointed out Algeria's restraint concerning Arab Maghreb unity.

Concerning his talks in France, the prime minister pointed out that a number of French companies showed interest in implementing large economic projects in Morocco despite some domestic and external circumstances, within the framework of French long-term and medium-term loans. He announced that the capacity of the telecommunications will be increased fourfold and 11 dams will be built. Water from Oum er Rbia will be linked to Tangier in addition to Casablanca.

Ships will be built for passengers and for transporting phosphate and transporting vegetables in refrigerated ships. There is also a project for linking Nador to Taourirt and Marrakech with Aaian via railroads, and building thermal centers.

Concerning Moroccan-European relations, the prime minister said in his press statement that Morocco asked France to provide ample undertakings in the name of the EEC to defend Moroccan interests in the event of Spain and Portugal joining the EEC. He said that the return of Moroccan immigrants must take place in dignified circumstances. All possible means with which to rehabilitate and reorganize these Moroccan nationals are being studied at present.

Protest Strike Stops Publication of Newspapers

LD141455 Rabat MAP in Arabic 0900 GMT 14 Apr 84

[Text] Rabat, 14 Apr (MAP) — The Arabic- and French-language editions of the newspapers *AL-'ALAM, L'OPINION, AL-MITHAQ AL-WATANI, AL-MAGHRIB, AL-ITIHAD AL-ISHTIRAKI, RISALAT AL-UMMAH* and *AL-BAYAN* were not published yesterday in protest at the printing of foreign press publications in Morocco. The Moroccan national press trade union decided on this measure on 10 April 1984 during an extraordinary board meeting to discuss the permission given to print foreign press publications in various languages in Morocco and called on the member publications in the trade union and other national newspapers not to publish on 13 April.

The extraordinary meeting decided that dailies should not be published yesterday and that periodicals should not publish their scheduled editions for this week. [words indistinct] The national trade union explained this decision in a statement, saying "that this measure and the form of resistance to the decision to allow the foreign press to print in Morocco which will follow is a purely professional matter that concerns self-defense in preservation of the security of Morocco, its interests and in order to protect the national press." *ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT*, which is published in London by Saudi Research and Marketing Limited, had begun publication on 6 April in Casablanca as a fifth printing center after London, Jidda, Riyadh, and Paris. The newspaper intends in the coming weeks to start a sixth printing center in Washington to cover America and Canada.

TUNISIA

Diplomatic Relations Established With Nepal

LD141406 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 14 Apr 84

[Text] The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has issued a statement that the Governments of the Republic of Tunisia and the Kingdom of Nepal have decided to establish diplomatic relations at ambassadorial level in order to develop and consolidate the existing amicable relations between the two countries.

Communist Party Paper Resumes Publication

NC141500 Paris AFP in English 1416 GMT 14 Apr 84

[Text] Tunis, April 14 (AFP) — The Tunisian Communist Party newspaper, *AT-TARIQ AL-JADID* (the new way), was published here again today after being banned for six months. The Arabic-language weekly, started when the party was legalised in July 1981, was banned last October for allegedly publishing "false information".

An independent Arabic-language weekly, *AL-AKHBAR* (the news), was published here for the first time today by the Tunis-Hebdo group, which also publishes a French-language weekly.

DJIBOUTI

President Hassan Sends Congratulations to Chernenko

EA141918 Djibouti Domestic Service in Somali 1645 GMT 14 Apr 84

[Text] The President of the Republic of Djibouti, Al-Haji Hassan Gouled Aptidon, has sent a message of congratulations to Mr Konstantin Chernenko on his election as president of the Soviet Union.

President Hassan Gouled Aptidon said in his message that he hopes that the good and friendly relations between the Soviet Union and Djibouti will grow stronger in the years to come. The Djibouti president wished President Chernenko good health and success and progress and prosperity for the Soviet people.

KENYA

Moi Sends Condolences on Death of Tanzania's Sokoine

EA131244 Nairobi Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 13 Apr 84

[Text] Following the death of Tanzania's prime minister, the Honorable Edward Sokoine, His Excellency President Daniel arap Moi has sent a message of condolence to President Julius Nyerere of Tanzania.

In his message President Moi said: My Dear Brother, I have learned with the deepest sorrow of the untimely death of your prime minister, the Hon Edward Sokoine. Mr Sokoine distinguished himself not only as a loyal and hardworking servant to you and the people of Tanzania, but also as an ardent advocate of greater cooperation of the people of Kenya and Tanzania and also the whole of Africa, for which he played during the recent negotiations on the cooperation of the people and countries of East Africa.

The message went on to say: All those who came to know him and worked with him admired his distinguished personal qualities of humility, simplicity, and dedication to service of the people. It will be very difficult to fill the gap that has been left by the late Hon Sokoine.

On behalf of the people of Kenya, the government, the ruling party, KANU, and myself, I wish to send my heartfelt condolences and sympathy to you and the bereaved family of the late prime minister, the government, the ruling party Chama Cha Mapinduzi, and the people of Tanzania. We pray that the Almighty will rest his soul in eternal peace.

The late Hon Sokoine died yesterday in a road accident.

Envoy Calls for Stronger Ties With Ethiopia

EA161228 Nairobi KNA in English 0653 GMT 16 Apr 84

[Excerpts] Garissa April 16 — Kenya's ambassador to Ethiopia, Mr Nganatha, has stressed that the bilateral relations which exist between Kenya and Ethiopia should be strengthened for the benefit of the people of the two countries. Mr Nganatha praised the people living along the common border of the two countries for promoting good-neighborliness.

The ambassador was speaking at Garissa town when he called on the provincial commissioner, Mr Benson Kaaria, in his office over the weekend.

The provincial commissioner, Mr Kaaria, briefed the ambassador on the effects of drought in the province and the action being taken by the government in providing famine relief to contain the situation. He observed that the province has not had heavy rains for the last 2 years, which has made some animals perish in the prevailing drought.

Minister Postpones Visit to Wajir District

EA161210 Nairobi KNA in English 0637 GMT 16 Apr 84

[Text] Garissa, April 16: The North-Eastern Provincial Commissioner, Mr Benson Kaaria, has announced the postponement of the visit of a minister of state in the office of the president, Mr Justus Ole Tipis, to Wajir today, until further notice.

Mr Kaaria said that the tour has been postponed because the minister had led a delegation to Tanzania to attend the funeral of the late Tanzanian prime minister, Mr Sokoine. He added that Mr Ole Tipis' visit to Wajir has not been put off but another date will be fixed soon.

Mr Tipis was scheduled to address a leaders conference and baraza [meeting] at Wajir.

SOMALIA

DFSS Reports Attack on Siad Forces in Ghel Gudut

EA142008 (Clandestine) Radio Halgan in Somali to Somalia 1800 GMT 14 Apr 84

[Text] Units of the 9th Gen Aynanshe Division of the Democratic Front for the Salvation of Somalia, DFSS, wing of the Somali opposition forces on 13 April launched a surprise attack on the dispirited soldiers still loyal to the dictatorial regime of Mohamed Siad Barre stationed on the outskirts of Dabad village in Ghel Gudut region, central Somalia.

The action launched by the intrepid fighters of the DFSS wing of the Somali opposition forces resulted in the death of seven soldiers, while nine others of the troops still loyal to General Siad Barre's regime were wounded. The gallant fighters of the 9th Gen Aynanshe Division of the DFSS wing of the Somali opposition forces also burned one vehicle which was transporting mines. The fighters who launched the action returned to their base safely.

TANZANIA

Reportage on Funeral of Prime Minister Sokoine

Nyerere, Machel Pay Respects

EA141622 Dar es Salaam Domestic Service in Swahili 1300 GMT 14 Apr 84

[Excerpt] Dar es Salaam — Thousands of mourners, including President Nyerere and President Samora Machel of Mozambique, today paid their last respects to the late Prime Minister Ndugu Edward Moringe Sokoine at Karimjee Hall in Dar es Salaam.

President Machel went to pay his last respects shortly after arriving in Dar es Salaam. Ndugu Samora was accompanied on the visit by Mozambique's delegation which is due to attend the funeral of the late prime minister, Ndugu Sokoine, at Monduli in Arusha region tomorrow.

Among other party and government leaders who paid their last respects were the interim president of Zanzibar and interim chairman of the Zanzibar Revolutionary Council, Ndugu Ali Hassan Mwinyi; the party's secretary general, Ndugu Rashid Kawawi, and Zanzibar's chief minister, Ndugu Seif Shariff Hamadi.

The former vice president of the United Republic, Ndugu Aboud Jumbe, was among thousands of countrymen who paid their last respects to the late prime minister, Ndugu Sokoine.

All roads leading into the grounds of Karimjee Hall were packed with long lines of sad and grieving mourners for the death of the prime minister, Ndugu Edward Moringe Sokoine.

African Leaders Attend Funeral

EA151929 Dar es Salaam Domestic Service in Swahili 1500 GMT 15 Apr 84

[Excerpts] Monduli: The late prime minister, Edward Moringe Sokoine, who died last Thursday in a car accident, was buried today in his home village of Monduli Juu with full national honors. Thousands of mourners, led by President Nyerere, attended the funeral of the brave leader whose death has left a big gap for the nation. The burial was also attended by foreign visitors.

Representatives of 11 African governments, the Organization of African Unity, and southern African liberation movements such as the ANC, SWAPO of Namibia, and the Palestine Liberation Organization attended the burial of the late prime minister, Ndugu Edward Sokoine today. The African countries are Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Kenya, Mozambique, Angola, Botswana, Rwanda, Burundi, Lesotho and Malawi. The dean of the diplomatic corps and the dean of the African diplomatic corps in Tanzania also attended the burial.

Uganda was represented by the vice-president, Ndugu Paulo Muwanga; the Zambian delegation was headed by the prime minister, Ndugu Nalumino Mundia, while the Zimbabwean delegation was headed by the deputy prime minister, Ndugu Simon Muzenda. Ndugu Muzenda was accompanied by the country's foreign minister, Ndugu Witness Magwende; the minister for natural resources and tourism, Ndugu Victoria Chitepo, and the chief of protocol in the country, Ndugu Peter (Chemeska).

The Kenyan delegation included the foreign affairs minister, Mr Elijah Mwangale, a minister of state in the office of the president, Mr Justice Ole Tipis and, the secretary general of the ruling party in Kenya, KANU, who is also the minister for information and broadcasting, Robert Matano.

The Mozambican delegation was headed by a Frelimo Party Central Committee member, Ndugu Marcelino dos Santos, who was accompanied by the foreign affairs minister, Ndugu Joaquim Chissano. The Angolan delegation, headed by the interior minister, Ndugu Manuel Rodrigues Kito, also included the deputy foreign affairs minister, Ndugu Venancio da Moura. A three-man delegation from Botswana was headed by the vice president, Ndugu Peter Mmusi.

The OAU was represented by the organization's assistant secretary general, Ndugu Paul Etiang. The secretary-general of the ANC, Ndugu Alfred Nzo, represented his organization at the funeral.

CAMEROON

Authorities Accuse Ahidjo of Masterminding Coup

AB141225 Paris AFP in French 1208 GMT 14 Apr 84

[Text] Yaounde, 14 Apr (AFP) — The Cameroonian authorities accused for the first time on Saturday former President Ahmadou Adhidjo of having masterminded the abortive putsch on 6 April 1984 in Yaounde.

As a matter of fact, Cameroonian Minister of State in Charge of Armed Forces Gilbert Anze Tsoungui told a group of foreign journalists interviewing him: "It is the former president who incited the putschists, we are certain. This putsch is only a follow-up of the conspiracy" which President Biya denounced on 22 August 1983.

The minister of the Armed Forces, who received the journalists flanked by Chief of Staff General Pierre Semengue, added that "many civilians were involved in these events," and that they are "about to be arrested." These include notably "northern businessmen who are reported to have financed the attempted coup." The minister also stated that the authorities had "fragments of information hinting at the fact that something was in the offing."

Diplomats Estimate Casualties in 'Hundreds'

AB131235 Paris AFP in French 0801 GMT 13 Apr 84

[Excerpts] Yaounde, 13 Apr (AFP) — The death toll resulting from the attempted coup in Cameroon on 6 April is said to amount to "several hundreds of dead people," it was estimated on Thursday in diplomatic circles in the Cameroonian capital.

According to a Western diplomat, the figure often cited in private conversations by the Cameroonian authorities "is about 100." "Unfortunately, the number of the dead might be much more," he added. Several dozens of corpses were counted in the morgue of the Yaounde hospital alone, the same diplomat added.

It is probable that the exact number of victims of the confrontations will be extremely difficult to establish, especially for civilian victims or for the rebels who fled the country, observers believe. As the AFP reporter has noted, pauper's graves have already been dug. In the municipal cemetery of Yaounde, located near the stadium, a pauper's grave 15 meters long and 1 meter wide has been closed. Near it, another grave of about the same size and 5 meters deep has been dug.

"They brought the corpses in a truck," someone working nearby asserted. In the capital which is totally calm, the military deployment is gradually being reduced in certain areas. However, the "Briquetterie," a particularly noisy area where most Hausas from the north of the country live, is completely cordoned off. The whole area is surrounded by armed soldiers. Light machine guns and armored troop carriers block all roads. Seen from the outside, the Presidential Palace appears to have little damage. The only visible marks of the fighting are a blown-off street lamp and two panels of the sumptuous main gate which were obviously knocked down by an armored vehicle.

Yaounde Discusses Questions on Coup Attempt

AB131710 Yaounde Domestic Service in English 1400 GMT 13 Apr 84

[Sam Nofala Funken commentary]

[Text] The dust has begun settling over the 6 April coup attempt, but the public continues, and will continue, to ponder for a long time to come over certain perplexing questions concerning the incident. Among some of these puzzles frequently discussed in conversation groups are questions such as: Could it be that the authorities did not have even the faintest hint about the coup attempt beforehand despite the national security network, often described as an efficient octopus? Another pertinent question is: Could we — that is, the leadership and the masses — have directly or indirectly nourished ideas that may have given the rebels the notion that they were the only ones fit to rule this nation?

An analysis of the first question touches on the national security system as a whole, and this reporter would beg pardon to desist from any speculation about this issue for lack of accurate knowledge about the functioning of the institution. The only sensible remark one might make is that the failure of an early security warning system has caused the loss of lives, material, and moral damages that could have been avoided. Question number two: What could have given the rebels the notion that only they could rule this country?

As President Biya has rightly pointed it out, the rebels,whose leaders have been arrested, were made up of a group of selfish and ambitious persons with no particular tribal or religious affinities. It is also true, however, that the brains behind the coup attempt were nostalgic elements who owe allegiance to the former head of state. That much could be understood in the rebels' statement broadcast last Friday afternoon. It has also been noted that despite the diverse ethnic backgrounds of the rebels, the majority of their leaders share the same ethnic and, to a certain extent, religious background with the former head of state, to whom mercy was shown despite a death sentence passed on him for plotting to overthrow the government last year. It is common knowledge that the ex-president had brought up his followers, as he described them himself, to believe they were indispensable to the life of this nation, and it may not be far-fetched to say that even after he quit the political scene and later involved in subversive activities, the rest of us, consciously or unconsciously, perpetuated the idea that his followers were indispensable; that they were untouchables; they were to be feared for their ruthlessness and vindictive nature; that they were to be feared for their ill-gotten wealth. These notions were demonstrated in their continued domination of key institutions and sectors of national life, despite the fact that their domination of these important sectors was questionable and void of any merit.

Some would say that an attempt to reverse this situation would have appeared to be vindictive and diversive. Nevertheless, the failure to reverse the situation can be said to be largely responsible for asserting the notion that they were all-powerful and indispensable, hence the coup attempt. We hope everyone has seen for himself that these chaps were certainly not all powerful as it was generally believed, and that any measures taken

henceforth to safeguard national stability should not lose sight of this fact.

2 More Loyalist Soldiers Die From Injuries

AB150700 Yaounde Domestic Service in English 0600 GMT 15 Apr 84

[Text] Two more soldiers have died as a result of the serious injuries sustained during last week's abortive coup d'etat, bringing to 11 the number of loyal government troops killed in the coup attempt. President Biya has sent messages of condolence to the bereaved families.

CHAD

Bardai Reports GUNT 'Communique' on French Role

AB130610 (Clandestine) Bardai Chadian National Radio in French 1800 GMT 12 Apr 84

["Press communique" issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation and read by (name indistinct), secretary of state for foreign affairs and cooperation — date and place not given]

[Text] For some days now, the Chadian conflict has taken an international course with the French and Zairian forces of intervention [words indistinct] of Hissein Habre has taken a dangerous new dimension. Under the pretext of dispatching its soldiers to help him restore peace in Chad, the French Government, for some days now, has been carrying out intense military activities with unforeseen consequences for peace in Africa and the rest of the world. Some French soldiers were caught during a joint operation with fascist FAN elements not far from Oum Chalouba [words indistinct] of the French Government on Chadian soil.

We must bring to the attention of international opinion that the French forces not only equip and train their local (?puppets) but also take part in the fighting side by side with these puppets. The participation of the French troops — side by side with the FAN Army — in joint missions of aggression has now given to the Chadian issue [words indistinct]. In fact, France is now directly taking part in the Chadian civil war. This confirms the responsibility of the French Government [words indistinct] and the recent attempt by OAU to hold a roundtable discussion on peace which would have assembled the Chadian factions involved in the conflict. Contrary to all its statements, the French Government is in fact openly engaged in a strictly national conflict, in defiance of all efforts by the OAU chairman and the OAU General Secretariat for the return of peace to Chad. It must be recalled that the Transitional National Union Government [GUNT], faithful to its constant attitude in favor of a negotiated settlement of the Chadian crisis, decided to lift, before 9 January, its precondition for the departure of French troops from the national soil. Instead of taking this opportunity to push the Ndjamena butcher to national reconciliation, the Elysee has done everything to spoil the good initiatives of the OAU and some African states.

To this end, the GUNT wants to inform African countries as well as international organizations about France's military escalation policy in Chad. The GUNT wants them to assume their responsibility before the Chadian crisis goes beyond Chadian (?borders). The GUNT wants to reassure the French people of the fact that it has no hatred for them. It counts on them to (?compel) the French Government to review its aggressive and war-like policy in the Chadian crisis, in the well-understood interests of Chad and France. Already, the GUNT is happy about the positive reactions of organizations [words indistinct] in the face of the Chadian conflict.

CONGO

Sassou-Nguesso Speaks to Mozambican Media

MB131522 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1700 GMT 12 Apr 84

[Text] Mozambican journalist Elias Cossa, who traveled with President Samora Machel in his visit to the People's Republic of Congo, has sent a dispatch containing extracts of the interview given by the supreme leader of the Congolese revolution to Mozambican information media. Given its importance, we now read you the report:

The Marxist states of the African Continent must urgently combine their efforts in the face of the present imperialist aggressiveness and economic recession. This is what President Denis Sassou-Nguesso today told the Mozambican media. The president of the Congolese Labor Party [PCT] was answering a question put to him by AIM in regard to actions that must be carried out by African Marxist states experiencing a difficult economic situation as a result of the present world situation. The Third World countries, particularly the African socialist states, can only live and survive if they strengthen their interparty and intergovernment ties of cooperation, Sassou-Nguesso said. For the Congolese head of state, relations between Mozambique and Congo are an example of the kind of relationship that is required.

Sassou-Nguesso pointed out that in just 2 years Mozambican-Congolese interparty and intergovernment cooperation has assumed large-scale proportions. Party and government delegations from both countries have on various occasions brought Maputo and Brazzaville closer together. Now, the president said in reference to the official visit by the Mozambican delegation to the Congo, conditions have been created to develop cooperation at the level of our two parties and government. As a matter of fact, tomorrow, at the end of the official and friendly visit by President Samora Machel to Congo, the two leaders will sign a general friendship and cooperation treaty between Mozambique and Congo which will be valid for 15 years. As is always the case during official visits by heads of state, a joint communique will also be issued.

Asked by the Mozambican journalists how he views the present situation in southern Africa, an issue of great interest in this region of Africa, Sassou-Nguesso expressed his party's and country's total support for the peace initiatives which took place. We thought that there was a need to establish a climate of peaceful coexistence between different regimes and pursue the struggle for freedom of Namibia and for change in the South African system. In fact, Congo's position with regard to the situation in

southern Africa was already stated by Sassou-Nguesso at the banquet given for Samora Machel and his entourage on Monday. President Sassou-Nguesso said then that after long believing in the effectiveness of violence and subversion, the apartheid regime is now forced to negotiate with its neighbors to find ways of peaceful coexistence among all states of the region.

During his brief interview with the Mozambican media, President Sassou-Nguesso once again spoke on this issue in more detail. He examined the world reaction toward the aggressive regime, which he described as a regime which thought it could spread its influence in southern Africa and weaken and silence the neighboring countries. Now that this has failed, Pretoria has been forced to negotiate, the PCT leader added.

Sassou-Nguesso highly criticized, though in a diplomatic way, some countries of Africa and the world for leaving the fight against apartheid entirely in the hands of the frontline states. The fight against apartheid is one which the entire world must wage, and it should not be left only to the frontline states, Sassou-Nguesso said.

On the acuteness and precision of Marxist approach, Sassou-Nguesso gave an historical example demonstrating the irony of the present period in history. Comparing the apartheid regime to the Nazi regime in Europe in the Forties, Sassou-Nguesso said that in the Forties, all of mankind was involved in checking Nazism. It would not, therefore, be fair for Mozambique to be left alone to confront the apartheid system. Sassou-Nguesso's interview took place aboard the presidential steamer which enabled the Mozambican delegation to appreciate the green beauty of the right bank of the Congo River.

Further on Visit of Mozambique's Machel

Party School Speech

MB131728 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1050 GMT 13 Apr 84

[Speech by Mozambican President Samora Machel at the Congolese Labor Party School in Brazzaville on 12 April, with sentence-by-sentence translation into French -- recorded]

[Excerpts] In 1974 we defeated the colonial army. Our army was an honor for Africa — it was the first time in African history that an African army had defeated an European army. [applause] The myth of racial superiority was destroyed. Therefore, they had to negotiate with us.

Colonialism has no color, race, people, nor fatherland. So, it is not only the white who is a colonialist. That is why we talk about Morocco, a new phenomenon in Africa. [applause] We talk about a new phenomenon in Africa, that is, African colonization, internal colonization. Morocco has been colonizing the Sahara. It was easy for all of us to define colonialism when it was an European question. It was foreign colonialism. However, as the war went on, we began to understand the imperialist question and capitalism. As you know, during our war, South Africa also participated. It was an African country siding with foreign colonialism. Rhodesia took part against us. Portugal enjoyed NATO support. Therefore, our struggle was against colonialism, capitalism, and imperialism. Our struggle acquired a revolutionary content, and so it was necessary to attack and destroy. It was no longer a question of demanding a flag, an independent flag, or political independence. We realized that it was a revolutionary struggle because we already had a revolutionary ideology. Ours was a popular war in that the people took up arms. At that time, there were no diplomats, teachers, or medical doctors. We were all military men, diplomats, politicians, and economists. [applause]

When we triumphed, South Africa and Rhodesia approached us. They approached Frelimo's transitional government and we imposed conditions. They first approached us so that we would not support guerrillas in Zimbabwe. We said: In exchange for what? They told us: You give your terms. At the time, there were President Nyerere, President Kaunda, and the late Botswana President Seretse Khama. In Mozambique, Chissano was prime minister of the transitional government. I was a sergeant then. [laughter, followed by applause] The party decided then that I should not take part in the transitional government. Rather, I should organize the party and the Armed Forces for the time of the declaration of independence. So we told them that the Zimbabwean leaders should be released. That was the first condition. The second was the organization of a national conference for the independence of Zimbabwe. It is true. Joshua Nkomo, Gabriel Mugabe, Ndabaningi Sithole, and many other Zimbabwean leaders were released. [applause] The second demand [as heard] was to tell South Africa to withdraw its military and police units from Rhodesia. In fact it withdrew. John Vorster was then South Africa's prime minister.

In August 1975, there was a meeting between all Zimbabwean leaders and Ian Smith at Victoria Falls to find a peaceful solution for Zimbabwe. It was a failure, but I do not know the reason. However, Comrade Sassou-Nguesso knows the reason. [laughter, followed by applause] After this failure, the frontline states -- at the time they included Tanzania, Zambia, Botswana and Mozambique; Angola was not yet independent -- charged Mozambique with organizing the guerrilla war in Zimbabwe and uniting Zimbabwe's combatants. This was in September 1975. We managed to accomplish that. On 17 January 1976 the first attacks against Ian Smith's Rhodesia were launched from Mozambique. The war began then, my friends. South Africa took part alongside Ian Smith, particularly in the attacks against Mozambique. We had to dispatch more than 3,000 men to Zimbabwe. They fought alongside the Zimbabweans for 3 years. [applause]

At the time, Tanzania was invaded by Idi Amin. Mozambique sent troops to aid Tanzania because it is our rear area. We launched the war of liberation from Tanzania, and therefore we still regard Tanzania as our rear area. We regard Zambia as our rear area. So, when we hail the Congo, it is like hailing Tanzania. [applause]

When we declared independence, we defined four priority countries: Tanzania, Zambia, the Congo, and Guinea. [applause] These countries made our war theirs. [applause] However, what impresses us here is that the Congolese comrades have not emerged from a war of national liberation, but you are engaged

in a revolution. You are building scientific socialism. I would like to make a point: Not every armed struggle is a revolution. Do you understand, my friends? [applause] If every armed struggle were a revolution, then the whole world has already been transformed. [applause] However, the Congolese comrades have a correct definition of the enemy.

I return to the South African scene. Look at the forces that fought against Frelimo: Portuguese colonialism, the apartheid regime — the Republic of South Africa — and the illegal regime of Ian Smith. We have defeated these forces. How have we managed to endure this situation? Where does this strength come from? We do not have weapons. Our strength lies in our people and cadres. Our cadres are deeply dedicated to serving the people. Our cadres are ideologically trained. They have a clear ideology and objectives. This is the crux of the matter. [applause] They have the capacity to learn from other people's revolutions and to apply the universal principles of Marxism-Leninism to the Mozambican reality. [applause] We are against populism. [applause] We are against demagogy. [applause] We are against dogmatism. [applause] We are against empiricism. [applause] There are principles, but the question is how to translate them into politics. What is the political meaning of each principle? Usually, revolutionaries hide behind principles. [applause] They also make many mistakes. Our mistakes, shortcomings, and incapacities are attributed to imperialism. [applause]

The question of lack of punctuality is an essential aspect. There is also the question of time and opportunity, when we make decisions and when we implement them. We must have an acute sense of responsibility. Revolutionary vigilance is not suspicion. Suspicion is an arrogant attitude. However, when we do not arrive at work on time, we blame imperialism. [applause] Indiscipline, apathy, relaxation, and neglect. [applause] However, we say, down with imperialism. State property is destroyed. There are vehicles running unnecessarily. New vehicles are destroyed and new ones are allocated. We do not punish the person at fault because he is a comrade. [applause] He embezzles state property and money, and we, revolutionaries, lack courage to punish him. Instead, we say he is a comrade. How come, a comrade thief? [applause] Thus, we have destroyed the meaning of comrade. When we regard the one who destroys state property as a comrade...[sentence incomplete]. [applause] There are no boundaries here. There is no demarcation line, and so we will be destroyed by the enemy. A revolutionary must know how to apply the principles. He must know how to establish the strategy for each stage, and what tactic must be employed.

We are impressed with the Congo. It has gone through sad moments. There were attempts to topple the popular power, but the latter has always resisted. You know how to define reaction and counterrevolution. However, we revolutionaries always learn from blood. Imperialism disorganized the Congolese economy. We made a study of this subject. In Mozambique there is a paper: *HOW DOES THE ENEMY ACT?* How has the enemy acted in the Congo to murder Marien Ngouabi? How has imperialism acted in Chile to destroy Salvador Allende's power? However, in the Congo, where there is a sharp awareness of the enemy, Ngouabi died but the revolution carried on. [applause] I first visited the Congo in 1974, and came back in 1976. I was here in 1979. The situation was chaotic. I was here in 1981. The situation was chaotic. There was (?blood). The situation was evident on the faces of every one at the airport. I did not go to Brazzaville. I stayed at the airport, but I managed to see the situation because airports are like a country's mirror. There are many people who stop over at Brazzaville airport, and then say they have been in the Congo. It is like Pointe-Noire's harbor. Sailors call at Pointe-Noire and then say they have been in the Congo. So we revolutionaries must be careful with the image we give at airports and harbors. I do not know whether I am making myself understood. [applause] So, I stopped over at the airport twice and grasped the situation. I talked to my brother Sassou-Nguesso. However, this time the face of everyone was like midday sun. [applause] Happiness was patent on their faces. Emotion and hope for a better future must be attributed to Comrade Sassou-Nguesso. You know, religious people say that Christ was not able to see his own halo. He never realized that there was something shining above his head. Comrade Sassou-Nguesso also shines and he influences other people. [applause] We have visited projects and noticed that there was dynamism and interest in learning. I think this interest in training cadres is due to the fact that today's battle is centered on economics. In every sector, we noticed guidelines on economic, administrative, and management aspects.

We revolutionaries must not be happy when we do not have food, clothes, or shoes for the people or houses for the people orrunning water for the people. We are happy because these aspects worry Comrade Sassou-Nguesso. [applause] This shows that our comrade Sassou-Nguesso is a good strategist. He is a good thinker, planner, and economist. [applause] This is what we call revolutionary. [applause] A revolutionary must first look after himself in order to teach others. He must know how to look after his own house in order to be able to teach the people to look after their houses. This time we have hailed the Congo, your party and cadres, because we found hygiene everywhere we went. I mean mental hygiene. It shows that there is no confusion. You are on the right path. There are difficulties of course, but a revolution without difficulties is not a revolution. [applause]

These are also our problems in Mozambique. They are against us because we are waging a revolution there. Smith created armed bandits from members of the International Police for the Defense of the State [PIDE]. You know PIDE, don't you? He used former commando forces of the colonial army, special troops, outlaws, vagrants, and criminals. Their mission was to destroy the people's power. So we organized the party at a grass root and factory level. This is where the secret lies. After the independence of Zimbabwe, South Africa took 10,000 bandits from Mozambique to South Africa. South Africa also took Smith's mercenaries, his own soldiers, and Muzorewa's and Ndabaningi Sithole's to South Africa. These are the ones who attack and occupy Angola. They operate in Namibia. Those from Mozambique destroy the Mozambican economy.

I would like to thank the trust that the Congolese Labor Party [PCT] had in us by giving us this great opportunity and honor to address the members of the party. We addressed the cadres not only on the Congo's problems, but also on Mozambican and southern African problems. We spoke of the need to strengthen our friendship and militancy and to continuously link our revolutions and to transform our victories into victories of the

African and world revolutions. You had courage when you were the first to declare a Marxist party in your country. It was also an act of courage to declare the people's Republic of the Congo, although you were surrounded...[sentence incomplete]. [applause] We must learn with our brothers from the Congo, from your mistakes so that we do not repeat them. [applause] We must strengthen what has been a victory for you and then learn the secret of that victory. We must learn the secret of the victory.

I want to thank Comrade Sassou-Nguesso. He is a very quiet person and when we meet him, we learn a lot, particularly at this difficult moment of the OAU. Therefore, he is not only loved by the Congolese people but by all revolutionaries. [applause] He is a true and analytical comrade. He has a mind for detail. [applause] A consistent revolutionary is the one who is able to combine particularities with generalities. However, this is no easy task, but Comrade Sassou-Nguesso can do it. [applause] We shall convey this human warmth and this sympathy expressed by the Congolese people toward our people, and the party members toward Frelimo. When we return to Mozambique, we will tell the people that we have been with our brothers and comrades. Thank you. [applause]

The struggle continues. [crowd: Continues]
Independence or Death. [crowd: We shall win]
Long live Sassou-Nguesso. [crowd: Long live]
Long live the PCT. [crowd: Long live]
Long live the militants [preceedings words in French] [crowd:: Long live]
Long live the people. [preceeding words in French] [crowd: Long live]
Long live the Congo and Mozambique. [crowd: Long live]

Joint Communique Issued

MB131958 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1030 GMT 13 Apr 84

[Text] At the end of the visit made by President Samora Machel to the People's Republic of Congo, a joint communique was issued in Brazzaville in which both countries declared themselves in favor of a positive solution in the near future to the problems of southern Africa. This communique also expresses President Denis Sassou-Nguesso's understanding of the peace policy pursued by the People's Republic of Mozambique and by the Frelimo Party in this region of the African Continent. The joint Mozambique-Congo communique also states that the African countries have achieved successive victories in their struggle for political and economic independence despite the obstacles created by imperialism. The communique adds that both heads of state are pleased with the victories achieved by SWAPO and have reiterated their political and diplomatic support for this liberation movement.

South Africa's manuevers in Namibia to delay the achievement of a real independence are likewise denounced in this document, which also condemns the acts of aggression and destabilization against the countries of our region. The Mozambique and Congo heads of state support direct negotiations between Morocco and the Polisario Front and also appeal to the warring Chadian factions to engage in, without external interference, peace talks.

The joint communique mentions the determination of both heads of state to strengthen the OAU as a privileged instrument for the total liberation of the African Continent.

Treaty Signed With Mozambique

AB130618 Paris AFP in French 1524 GMT 12 Apr 84

[Text] Brazzaville, 12 Apr (AFP) — Congo and Mozambique have signed a treaty of friendship and cooperation in order to develop their political, economic, commercial, scientific, technical and cultural relations. This was contained in a joint communique issued today in Brazzaville at the end of President Samora Machel's official visit to the Congo. The Mozambique president, who left Brazzaville today for Maputo, had talks with his Congolese counterpart, President Denis Sassou-Nguesso. He also held talks with leaders of the Congolese Labor Party (PCT--the only party) on the situation in his country and in southern Africa. On his part, President Sassou-Nguesso, anwering questions from Mozambican journalists, stressed the "identical views" between PCT and Frelimo on African and international issues.

GABON

Bongo Proposes Roundtable Conference on Chad

AB160930 Paris AFP in French 1122 GMT 15 Apr 84

[Text] Gabonese President Omar Bongo is proposing to help find a solution to the Chadian conflict by organizing a "roundtable" conference which will bring together the "Chadian brothers," as well as Gabon, Congo, CAR, and Cameroon. In an interview published on Sunday by the weekly *LE JOURNAL DU DIMANCHE*, the Gabonese president indicated notably: "I am in contact with the Congo, Cameroon, and the CAR in order to try to bring these brothers together. But the place and date remains to be determined." However, France and Libya "should also come to agreement, since each of them has troops in that country," Omar Bongo continued. "It is not by mere pronouncements that we will bring about peace in Africa," the Gabonese president said, adding: "In the case of Chad, it is urgent to put down the knives and sit down around a table. In any case, I intend to assume my conciliatory role."

ZAIRE

Mobutu To Begin Visit to France 16 Apr

AB131351 Kinshasa Domestic Service in French 1130 GMT 13 Apr 84

[Excerpt] The founding chairman of the MPR and president of the republic is to pay an official working visit to France. The visit will begin in exactly 3 days, on 16 April. It will last 3 days. The visit, at the invitation of President Francois Mitterrand, falls within the framework of the excellent relations of cooperation and friendship existing between the Zairian and French peoples.

BENIN

Kerekou Congratulates USSR's Chernenko on Election

AB131046 Cotonou Domestic Service in French 1930 GMT 12 Apr 84

[President Mathieu Kerekou's message to CPSU General Secretary Konstantin Chernenko on 12 April following his election as president of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet]

[Text] Mr General Secretary, on the occasion of your brilliant election as president of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet, we are happy to address to you our very warm and sincere congratulations in the name of the hard-working and militant people of Benin, the Central Committee of the People's Revolution Party of Benin [PRPB], the National Executive Council and in our own name. We consider this election another testimony of your eminent qualities [words indistinct] and the noble ideals of peace, justice, and social progress in the world. We remain convinced that the bonds of sincere friendship, solidarity, and cooperation existing between our two countries, parties, and governments will continue to be developed and strengthened every day for the greatest good of the Beninese and Soviet peoples.

While reiterating to you our sincere and militant congratulations, we pray you to accept, Mr General Secretary, this expression of our highest regards.

Signed: Mathieu Kerekou, president of the Central Committee of the PRPB, president of the republic, head of state, and chairman of the National Executive Council.

GHANA

Border Disputes With Upper Volta Discussed

AB130642 Accra Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 12 Apr 84

[Text] The acting regional secretary for the Upper East, Mr Martin Amidu, has observed that for the cordial relations between Ghana and Upper Volta to be further strengthened, there is a need for the nationals of the two countries to be conversant with each other's (?problems). The two friendly countries, he said, are engaged in a struggle aimed at eradicating the vestige of imperialism and colonialism and nothing should disrupt this progress. Mr Amidu made the observation during a meeting with the regional commissioner for Mawari Province, Upper Volta, at Paga, to resolve two border disputes involving some Upper Voltan nationals and Ghanaian customs officials. The first case concerned the seizure of undeclared 281,000 CFA francs from an Upper Voltan national by Ghanaian border guardsmen; the other involved the seizure of 12 pieces of cloth from 6 Voltan nationals by customs officials. The quantity of cloth exceeded what travellers are allowed to bring in.

After a few hours of discussions with Mr Ouattara, a representative of the Upper Voltan Government, Mr Amidu agreed that the money and the cloth should be released to Upper Voltan Government and not to the individuals. He hoped, however, that similar incidents would not occur in the future since the two countries have more important issues to tackle.

Later, at a meeting with Ghanaian guardsmen and custom officials, Mr Amiu commended them for their vigilance and urged them to keep it up. In his contribution, Mr Ouattara said the Upper Voltan Government is organizing seminars for customs officials and traders to educate them on trade laws of Ghana and the Upper Volta. He said that the decision to return the goods to the Upper Voltan Government is a manifestation that the two countries are brothers and are capable of solving their common problems.

Number of Ghanaians Arrested in Nigeria May Be Higher

AB141340 Accra Domestic Service in English 1300 GMT 14 Apr 84

[Text] Reports reaching Accra indicate that the number of Ghanaians arrested in Nigeria might be higher than the figure originally given. So far, a total of 1,300 deportees have been brought home in 10 flights since the exercise began 3 days ago. All of them were rounded up in Lagos alone. The figure of those arrested in other states is not yet known, and it is believed it will run into several thousands.

GUINEA-BISSAU

Vieira Receives Guinea's Prime Minister Traore

AB131810 Paris AFP in French 1015 GMT 13 Apr 84

[Text] Bissau, 13 Apr (AFP) — Colonel Diara Traore, Guinean prime minister, [words indistinct] where he will be received by General Joao Bernardo Vieira, president of Guinea-Bissau, it was officially announced in Bissau on Thursday afternoon.

The visit is aimed at explaining to neighboring countries the reasons behind the 3 April coup d'etat. Col Traore was in Abidjan on Wednesday and in Lome and Bamako on Thursday. He is also due in Dakar on Saturday. The Guinean premier is accompanied by Captain Facine Toure, minister of foreign affairs, and Captain Fode Momo Camara, minister of international cooperation.

IVORY COAST

Guinea's Traore Makes Visit to Abidjan

AB130609 Abidjan Domestic Service in French 1930 GMT 12 Apr 84

[Text] Colonel Diara Traore, Guinean prime minister, who arrived in Abidjan yesterday, left this morning for Lome, Togo. During his short stay in the Ivory Coast, the head of the Guinean Government held lengthy discussions with President Houphouet-Boigny. Before boarding the plane at the Port-Bouet Airport this morning, Col Diara Traore explained to the press the reasons why the Military Committee for National Redress [CMRN] decided to pay its first visit abroad to President Houphouet-Boigny.

[Begin Traore recording] We came to the Ivory Coast to meet President Houphouet-Boigny, whom we consider as the oldest of the heads of state and a wise man, to explain to him the causes for the change in government. We chose the Ivory Coast as the first country to visit because it is our immediate neighbor, because we know that the people of Ivory Coast and Guinea are one, and because we were sure of the friendship and the fraternity that the Ivorian peoples have always shown Guinea. We held discussions with the president, and touched on many issues. Our discussions took place in a truly relaxed atmosphere, and, as the president himself stated, took place in a family atmosphere. The president gave us a lot of wise advice and ensured us of loyal cooperation and a strengthening of the ties of friendship that exist between the people of Guinea and the people of Ivory Coast.

We therefore leave very confident about the future of relations between the two countries, and we are very comforted by the fatherly sentiments shown by President Houphouet. We cannot leave the Ivory Coast without expressing our sincere gratitude to the Ivorian Government and people for the warm reception accorded us right from our arrival, the considerations shown by our brother leader of this country, and the moral satisfaction that we have gained. Once again, we say thanks to the Ivorian people, the Ivorian Government, and President Houphouet-Boigny for his concern for our people that we know he loves so much. [end recording]

Col Diara Traore answered questions on the issue of Guineans living abroad, the currency, and the new regime's foreign relations. On the situation of Guineans living abroad, the Guinean prime minister replied that all Guineans, wherever they may be, are invited to forget the past and contribute toward building the country. He gave the assurance and guarantee that all will find places that befit them in Guinea. Concerning the Guinean currency, Col Diara Traore disclosed that a special session of the CMRN will be held to discuss this. Finally, on the new regime's foreign relations, the head of the Guinean Government recalled that the new Guinea will not turn its back on anyone. On the contrary, it welcomes everyone, especially those who can give them able assistance.

NIGER

Head of State Grants Amnesty to Coupists

OW150325 Hong Kong AFP in English 0258 GMT 15 Apr 84

[Text] Niamey, April 15 (AFP) — Niger's head of state Seyni Kountche announced Saturday night that Hamani Diori, president from 1960 to 1974, and former secretary-general of the Sawaba Progressive Party, Djibo Bakary, had been released from house arrest.

The move was part of an amnesty for some 40 people jailed after the April 1974 coup and an August 1975 "plot" against the military regime.

Addressing the nation on the 10th anniversary of the military's seizing power, Gen Kountche also announced an amnesty for people sentenced in connection with a March 15, 1976 coup attempt. Seven of the main leaders in that abortive coup were executed.

The clemency measures will affect some 40 people in all, authoritative sources said.

Kountche Receives Dos Santos During Stopover

AB130628 Niamey Domestic Service in French 1900 GMT 12 Apr 84

[Excerpts] Eduardo dos Santos, president of the People's Republic of Angola, made a technical stopover at Niamey International Airport this afternoon and was welcomed by head of state, General Seyni Kountche. Gen Kountche was greeted by Lieutenant Colonel Ali Seydou, chief of General Staff of the National Armed Forces, and Ide Oumarou, minister of foreign affairs.

Presidents Seyni Kountche and Eduardo dos Santos held a 48-minute talk in the VIP lounge, which was related to present African issues. After the talks the Angolan head of state left our capital for Luanda. He was returning from an official visit to some East European countries.

NIGERIA

Civil Servants Await Dismissal Notifications

AB132040 Lagos NAN in English 1545 GMT 13 Apr 84

[Text] Lagos, April 13, (NAN) — An easy [as received] calm prevailed in many federal ministries yesterday as workers discussed the official announcement of the Federal Civil Service Commission (FCSC) on Wednesday that 3,000 public servants had been retired in the current purge.

Some of the workers who were seen discussing the issue told correspondents of the NEWS AGENCY OF NIGERIA (NAN) that they did not know their fate because the list of the affected persons had not yet been released. A competent source at the Ministry of Works and Housing told NAN that the ministry had earlier sent a list of those to be retired to the FCSC, mainly on the grounds of old age and false declaration of age.

The permanent secretary in the ministry, Alhaji Saidu Barda, told NAN that those affected would be informed through letters as soon as the ministry received the list of the affected persons from the FCSC.

The president of the NLC [Nigerian Labor Congress], Alhaji Ali Chiroma, told NAN that the NLC was opposed to any form of retrenchment in either the public or private sector. He said that the appropriate organ of the NLC would soon decide on what action to take, pointing out "It is not for me alone to decide on that."

'Undesirable' Officials Purged

AB131845 Paris AFP in English 1513 GMT 12 Apr 84

[Text] Lagos, April 12 (AFP) — The Nigerian Federal Civil Service Commission has announced the immediate compulsory retirement or dismissal of 3,000 civil servants of various grades as part of a continuing purge by the military administration. The campaign is directed against "undesirable, partisan and unproductive" public officials.

The commission's chairman, B. Shettima, said the criteria for the exercise were age, productivity, health and various disciplinary actions against the officers, ranging from fraud to indiscipline.

The clean-up affected six federal establishments and the Communications Ministry lost most staff — a total of 1,029. The Post and Telecommunications Department, regarded here as one of the many government agencies plagued with inefficiency, comes under this ministry.

The Defence Ministry was next on the list with 587 jobs lost, followed by the Finance Ministry with 369.

Since seizing power last December 31, the administration of Major-General Muhammadu Buhari has been trying to clear up Nigeria's economic and social affairs and this has resulted in several sackings across the board.

The exercise began early January when dozens of top military officials were relieved of their posts and this has been followed by scores of compulsory retirements in the Armed Forces.

Similarly, about 100 officers have been dismissed from the police following a reorganisation which Inspector-General Etim Nyang said was aimed at removing the "bad eggs" that have tainted the force's image.

Secretary of Government Gary Longe has said that the purge, which has also hit the Nigerian Security Organisation and the Customs Department, was not a "witchhunt," but designed to purify a decadent society. He pledged that innocent and loyal public officers had nothing to fear.

However, most of the 19 federated states are doing their own share of what is now assuming the apperance of a mass purge, and observers have noted the widely differing reasons for sackings. Some states have said they sacked hundreds of workers who were appointed because of "political considerations."

Lagos Reports 3,000 Illegal Aliens Repatriated

AB132130 Lagos Domestic Service in English 2100 GMT 13 Apr 84

[Text] About 1,500 illegal aliens were airlifted by the Nigeria Airways today. A Radio Nigeria airport correspondent said that more than 3,000 aliens had been repatriated since the exercise started yesterday. The repatriation exercise, which is being carried out at the instance of the Federal Military Government, is expected to end this weekend.

Buhari Receives Chadian Foreign Minister

AB121500 Lagos Domestic Service in English 1200 GMT 12 Apr 84

[Text] Nigeria has called on Chadian leaders to sink their differences as a step toward bringing about peace in that country. The head of state, Major General Muhammadu Buhari, made the call in Lagos yesterday when he received the Chadian foreign minister, Korom Ahmed, at Dodan Barracks. Gen Buhari said that Nigeria believes in the withdrawal of all foreign forces from Chad to enable the people to settle their internal problems.

On the closure of the Nigerian border with the Republic of Chad, he said the action was necessitated by the recent situation in the Republic of Cameroon and gave the assurance that as soon as the situation returned to normal, the borders would be reopened. Earlier, the foreign minister had briefed General Buhari on the Chadian initiative to settle the crisis. He said that President Hissein Habre was willing to improve in all areas of cooperation between Nigerian and Chad.

SENEGAL

Guinean Envoy Explains Military Takeover

AB130622 Dakar Domestic Service in French 2000 GMT 12 Apr 84

[Excerpts] Almamia Kouyate, Guinean ambassador to Senegal, today defined the political orientations of the new military regime in power in Conakry. The Guinean ambassador, in an exclusive statement to Radio Senegal this afternoon, also spoke about the excellent relations between Senegal and Guinea. Mr Kouyate first explained the circumstances of the takeover of power by the soldiers:

[Begin Kouyate recording] Contrary to reports by news agencies, there was no coup in Guinea. The Guinean head of state, the late President Ahmed Sekou Toure having died, the seat remained vacant. Because of the wranglings among government members over the succession, the people asked their Army to seize power in order to save human lives.

You will agree with me that this seizure of power by the Guinean People's Army on 3 April 1984, without any bloodshed, without any loss of human life, without even any malicious intentions and without any disturbance of normal life and so on, is an event which will henceforth be written in golden letters in the records of political and administrative changes of the peoples of Africa and the world.

Henceforth in Guinea no one can play with human rights or with free movement of people and goods. Human rights will scrupulously be respected. We are also calling on the brotherly people of Senegal to be tolerant and understanding toward the new government set up in Conakry. [end recording]

SIERRA LEONE

Guinean Prime Minister To Bring Conte Message

AB141240 Paris AFP in English 0950 GMT 14 Apr 84

[Text] Freetown, April 14 (AFP) — The prime minister of Guinea's new regime, Colonel Diara Traore, is due to begin talks here today on cooperation with neighbouring Sierra Leone.

He is also expected to deliver a message to president Siaka Stevens from the new Guinean head of state Colonel Lansana Conte.

Colonel Traore, who is accompanied by Foreign Minister Captain Fasineh Toure, arrived in Freetown yesterday for his latest stop in a tour of West Africa following the coup d'etat in Guinea on April.

TOGO

Upper Voltan Minister Brings Sankara Message

AB130643 Lome Domestic Service in French 1230 GMT 12 Apr 84

[Excerpt] This morning the head of state received the Upper Voltan minister of foreign affairs, Arba Diallo, who arrived in Lome today. He delivered a message from President Thomas Sankara to the founding chairman of the Rally of the Togolese People, General Gnassingbe Eyadema.

Teachers Union Strikes, Members Dismissed

Dismissals 'Irrevocable'

AB151125 Paris AFP in French 0844 GMT 15 Apr 84

[Text] Ouagadougou, 15 Apr (AFP) — The decision to dismiss all striking teachers of the National Trade Union of African Teachers of Upper Volta (SNEAHV) is "irrevocable." This was stated on Saturday in Ouagadougou by Upper Voltan head of state Captain Thomas Sankara.

Captain Sankara, who was addressing a cadres public service conference, further warned teachers who might try to thwart the reopening of school on Monday by opposing their replacement with "revolutionary teachers" (recruited after an "ideological test") that the local authorities have received orders to respond "with arms."

The Upper Voltan head of state has thus settled the question as to whether the National Revolutionary Council [CNR] was determined to fully implement its decision, an issue which was elaborated upon by the national press, observers note.

State radio and television editorialists notably asked the CNR to make a distinction between the strikers branded as "imperialist bridgeheads who are seeking to reverse the Upper Voltan revolution," and the others motivated by sheer union solidarity reflex and not by ulterior political motives.

Captain Sankara, who for his part considers "the page turned," appealed to the dismissed teachers "to show their repentance by joining the revolution."

Unions Oppose Dismissals

AB151335 Paris AFP in French 1740 GMT 13 Apr 84

[Text] Ouagadougou, 13 Apr (AFP) — Five Upper Voltan trade unions have just expressed their disagreement with the National Council of the Revolution's [CNR] decision to dismiss all teachers who went on strike on 20 and 21 March 1984, it was learned in Ouagadougou on Friday.

In a statement, which was not dated but was signed by their secretaries general, the General Union of Upper Voltan Students, UGEV; National Trade Union of Tax and Estate Agents, SNAID; the Trade Union of Human and Animal Health Workers, SYNTSHA; the Trade Union of Teaching and Research Workers, SYNTR; and the Trade Union of Geology, Mines, and Hydraulic Workers, SYNTRAGMIH, observe that such a decision is aimed at "intimidating the trade union movement," and "incontestably constitutes a first step toward the suppression of the right to strike in Upper Volta."

Observing that it is erroneous to describe "the entire mass of strikers as counterrevolutionaries," the trade unionists are protesting the fact that — according to them — "any trade union which does not sing the praises of the government is described as a center of political subversion seeking to destabilize the regime."

Observers note that the stand of the trade unions, which describe themselves as "revolutionaries" and dissociate themselves from the "coupist" leadership of the National Union of African Teachers of Upper Volta, SNEAHV — which is the cause of the 20 and 21 March strike action — comes in the wake of a social atmosphere, particularly in the schools, which has remained tense.

In fact, next Monday, upon the reopening of the third term for schools, the new "revolutionary" teachers are expected to take up their posts and risk a confrontation with the dismissed teachers whom the SNEAHV has called upon to report normally to their places of work.

According to Emmanuel Dadjouari, minister of national education, arts, and culture, these 1,400 "revolutionary teachers" were recruited after undergoing an "ideology test" from among university students, holders of the "baccalaureat," students at the teacher training colleges, and holders of the Professional Aptitude Certificate, CAP, and secondary school graduation certificate, BEPC.

Stike Called 'Subversive

AB121520 Ouagadougou Domestic Service in French 1300 GMT 12 Apr 84

[Text] Comrade Emmanuel Dadjouari, minister of national education, arts, and culture, spoke about the subversive strike organized by primary school teachers on 20 and 21 March in an

interview published today by *SID WAYA*. In this interview, Comrade Dadjouari reassured parents that schools would reopen on 16 April and that the year-end examinations would take place normally. Irisha Yameogo glanced through *SID WAYA* and summarizes this interview.

[Begin Yameogo recording] A total of 1,400 new teachers are to be employed in Upper Voltan schools, 1,380 [word indistinct] teachers dismissed, out of 6,000 teachers. The minister of national education, arts, and culture gave these facts following the subversive activities organized by the reactionary leadership of the National Union of Upper Voltan Teachers [SNEAHV] on 21 March 1984. This figure of 1,380 dismissals is less than the figure of 2,500 the SNEAHV leadership gave. Comrade Emmanuel Dadjouari revealed this in an interview published today in *SID WAYA*. Referring to his experience in trade unionism, Comrade Dadjouari said that he was member of the SNEAHV in 1965 when he was a deputy teacher. While a member, he headed the local branches of Segenega and Garango and was a member of the National Bureau in 1978. He is therefore someone who is used to the machinery of the SNEAHV, so he is not surprised that several teachers were dragged into the subversive strikes of 20 and 21 March.

This strike, he went on to say, is essentially political in nature and has been remotely controlled from outside the country for a long time. It is aimed at creating the necessary conditions for the seizure of power by the congolomerate comprising the National Liberation Movement, the Upper Voltan Progressive Union, the Upper Voltan Progressive Front, and the Military Committee for the Recovery of National Progress.

As such, Comrade Dadjouari stated, this conglomerate put all its energy into the battle unreservedly, and for the firt time, teaching counsellors and inspectors got into the arena with the solgans: Go on strike, the government will fall — It's just a matter of a few hours. About 1,400 of the teachers went on strike, he concluded.

The minister of national education, arts, and culture, however, assures worried parents of the competence of the new teachers. In his opinion, the quality of a teacher depends more on his moral aptitude than on his technical knowledge. The teacher is not a reservoir of knowledge charged with stuffing small heads, but rather an organizer, a stimulator who must bring out the creative genius of his pupils in a revolutionary perspective. The primary objective for the training of any human being is his ideological training. This is what allows the person to find his place in his universe and to master the elements for his own development, Comrade Dadjouari pointed out. All those who will be considered after the ideological test will be competent to fulfill their mission because they will create the necessary framework for their professional training continuously, he said. All necessary measures have been taken to ensure that the year-end examinations are taken as scheduled.

Speaking on the attitude of some striking teachers, Comrade Dadjouari points out that the president has received hundreds ofletters in which the strikers have asked for clemency and pardons. Will they be heard? He says he does not know. All depends on the strikers themselves because, as the president said, the revolution does not belong to any individual. The revolution came to give and not to take away. It came to give the Upper Voltan people happiness and not to destroy. That means that each person has his place in the revolution. Everyone boarded the band-wagon of the democratic and popular revolution on the night of 4 August. It is now time for those who jumped out of the wagon and who want to get on it again to run as fast as they can to catch it.

Former Officials To Be Tried For Fraud Named

AB150707 Ouagadougou Domestic Service in French 0730 GMT 14 Apr 84

[Communique issued by the Ministry of Justice — place and date not given]

[Text] The minister of justice and keeper of the seals informs the people of the first session of the People's Tribunal of the Nahouri region to be held at Po on Saturday, 14 April 1984, at 0800. Those to be tried are the following dignitaries of the Military Committee of Redress for National Progress [CMRPN] and of the Third Republic. Francois Bouda, former minister of national defense and war veterans; Kargougou Moussa, former minister of foreign affairs; and Edouard Tani, former minister of information, all of them from the Third Republic.

Others are Georges Boni Moussa, former minister of youth and sports, CMRPN; Charles Bambara Hounssouo, former minister of information, posts, and telecommunications, CMRPN; Edmond Ki, former minister of finance, CMRPN; Gaston Gnoumou Kani, former minister of public works, CMRPN; and Felix Tiemtarboum, former foreign minister of the CMRPN. In addition to charges of embezzlement of public funds and fraudulent practices leveled against them, some of the accused will have to explain the origin of the wealth they accumulated in record time, in sheer disregard of the public interest. The fatherland of death, we will win!

ANGOLA

Dos Santos Returns From Tour of Eastern Europe

MB131659 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 1200 GMT 13 Apr 84

[Text] Jose Eduardo dos Santos, chairman of the MPLA-Labor Party and president of the People's Republic of Angola, returned yesterday to the country after a tour of three socialist European countries. This tour took him to Yugoslavia, Romania, and Poland and was within the framework of reiterating the common links of friendship and solidarity and outlining guidelines of mutual cooperation for 1984-85. In these three countries, several accords were signed in the fields of training cadres, air and sea transportation, petroleum and other minerals, industry, agriculture and cattle-breeding, civil construction, and trade and culture. Also signed were interparty protocols between the MPLA-Labor Party and the parties of the countries visited.

President Jose Eduardo dos Santos gave credit to the Angolan people for the distinctions that were awarded him, namely the Great Sash of Merit from Poland, for his efforts in favor of peace and friendship between peoples; the Golden Star from Yugoslavia, and the Golden Plaque from Belgrade, both symbolizing the friendship and solidarity that links the peoples of Angola and Yugoslavia. The Angolan head of state discussed with the authorities of the three countries the current world situation, dominated by wars which are characteristic of a society in decline and by an economic crisis which particularly affects developing countries. At this moment when the correlation of forces is favorable to the forces of peace and progress, President Jose Eduardo dos Santos and the leaders of Yugoslavia, Romania, and Poland demonstrated their support for a new world economic order when they spoke against the arms race and for the channeling of all military resources into support for the world economy.

Dos Santos Sends Message to Nigerian Leader

MB131820 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 1200 GMT 13 Apr 84

[Text] Jose Eduardo dos Santos, chairman of the MPLA-Labor Party and president of the People's Republic of Angola, recently sent a message to General Mohammed Buhari, his Nigerian counterpart. The message was delivered the day before yesterday in Lagos by Arlindo Espirito Santo, Angolan ambassador to Nigeria, who was received in audience by the supreme leader of Nigeria. During the audience, the Angolan ambassador and Gen Buhari discussed the current situation in southern Africa and the latest events in the region.

Message Sent to Moi

MB150804 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 0700 GMT 15 Apr 84

[Text] Comrade Jose Eduardo dos Santos, the president of the People's Republic of Angola, has sent a message to President Daniel arap Moi of Kenya. The bearer of the message was Eusebio Sebastiao, the Angolan ambassador to Tanzania, who informed President Moi about Angola's position in regard to the presence of Cuban troops in Angola and reaffirmed the conditions put forward by President Jose Eduardo dos Santos to Dr Javier Perez de Cuellar, the UN secretary general, in August 1983. President Jose Eduardo dos Santos had said that the withdrawal of Cuban troops from Angola depended on the withdrawal of South African troops from Angola, the application of Resolution 435 of the UN Security Council for the independence of Namibia, and the cessation of all logistic support by Pretoria for the UNITA puppet gangsters.

Official Talks Begin With GDR Delegation

MB140648 Luanda ANGOP in French 1200 GMT 13 Apr 84

[Text] Luanda, 13 Apr (ANGOP) — The official talks between delegations from the GDR, led by Gerd Koenig, and the People's Republic of Angola, led by Venancio de Moura, began in Luanda yesterday. Some Angolan officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the State Secretariat for Cooperation are taking part in the talks. The East German leader arrived in Luanda on Wednesday for a 5-day visit to the People's Republic of Angola. He was received yesterday in audience by Lopo do Nascimento, minister of planning and of foreign trade. They discussed matters of common interest between the two countries. The GDR deputy minister of foreign affairs was also received after lunch by Bernardo de Sousa, minister of transports and communications. On Wednesday night Gerd Koenig was honored by an official dinner given by his Angolan counterpart. The GDR deputy minister of foreign affairs (?delivered) a message from Erich Honecker, chairman of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany and president of the GDR.

Koenig Signs Judicial Protocol

MB140900 Luanda Domestic Service in Portugese 0500 GMT 14 Apr 84

[Text] Angola and the GDR signed in Luanda yesterday a protocol for the exchange of instruments ratifying the judicial agreement which has existed between the two countries since 1981. The documents were signed by Venancio de Moura, the Angolan deputy foreign minister, and Gerd Koenig, the GDR deputy foreign minister, currently on an official visit to Angola. The agreement between the two countries, covering the fields of civil rights, penal, labor, and family laws, was signed in Berlin in 1981 by Angolan Foreign Minister Paulo Jorge and GDR Foreign Minister Oskar Fischer.

FAPLA, ODP Continue Action Against UNITA

MB151036 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 0700 GMT 15 April 84

[Text] The Angolan Army is continuing to carry out vigorous actions against the UNITA criminal gangs which consider the desperate attacks against civilian targets and the plundering of social property to be a means of satisfying their murderous designs. Military sources approached by ANGOP advised that

UNITA gangs have tried once again to attack and occupy Luau village in Moxico Province. This attempt has failed in view of the determination of the Angolan people to annihilate all their enemies. Other reports say that in Cuando Cubango Province, workers organized by the People's Defense Organization [ODP] have detected and destroyed 37 shacks used as hideouts by the puppets. Four criminals were killed in this operation.

In Huambo Province, a criminal group was repelled by ODP combatants when they attempted to attack Canjamba village. The ODP immediately intervened, resulting in the death of the chief assistant of the bandit group and the arrest of another counterrevolutionary. In the same province, more than 10 criminals have been annihilated by the People's Armed Forces for the Liberation of Angola [FAPLA] in retaliatory operations in Vila Flor region. Glorious FAPLA forces are continuing their operations designed to annihilate the enemy. However, the enemy is not stopping its attempts to destabilize the nation's socioeconomic life. Imperialist attacks, from the infiltration of UNITA puppets, have been promptly responded to by the suffering people of Angola, who are organized by the Armed Forces, the ODP, and the People's Vigilance Brigades.

LESOTHO

1 Killed, 2 Injured in Maseru Bomb Blast

MB141014 Johannesburg RAND DAILY MAIL in English 14 Apr 84 p 1

[Text] Maseru — A man died and two people were seriously injured when a bomb blast rocked Lesotho's capital as many people were preparing to go for lunch yesterday. Another bomb was defused. The injured were rushed to Queen Elizabeth II Hospital where they were treated. The explosion occurred at the headquarters of the Lesotho Watchmen Association, at Sea Point, on the outskirts of Maseru. Bomb experts from Lesotho Security Forces rushed to the scene of the explosion where the police had cordoned off the area. The last explosions in Lesotho were in September when a post office at the Pitso ground and one of the buildings at the Lesotho Airways headquarters were extensively damaged. The post office started operating last month after it was rebuilt. The police are investigating.

Police Defuse Explosives

MB141330 Maseru Domestic Service in English 1130 GMT 14 Apr 84

[Text] One person was killed and two others were seriously injured when a bomb exploded in Mr (E. Fosa's) offices at Sea Point, Maseru, yesterday afternoon. The names of the dead and the injured have not been released until their next of kin have been informed. The deputy commissioner of police, Brigadier (Tafanyane), says the injured have been treated at the Queen Elizabeth II hospital in Maseru. He says the police, who rushed to the scene, also found a variety of timed explosive devices, a hand grenade, a firearm, and ammunition in Mr (Fosa's) offices. The bombs were defused. It has also been announced that yesterday afternoon the police defused a time bomb to explode at 0100 this morning. The bomb was contained in a big tin trunk together with petrol and spirit bombs near the Pioneer filling station. The police investigation is continuing.

MADAGASCAR

President Congratulates Chernenko, Kim Il-song

MB140656 Antanarivo Domestic Service in French 0430 GMT 13 Apr 84

[Message sent on 12 April from President Didier Ratsiraka to Konstantin Chernenko on his election as chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR]

[Text] Following your brilliant election as chairman of the presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR, I feel honored to very warmly congratulate you on behalf of the Malagasy people, their revolutionary administration, and on my own behalf. We wish you total success in the implementation of the high tasks entrusted to you. I am convinced that the relations of friendship and cooperation existing between the peoples of our two countries will be further promoted for their mutual advantage and for the cause of peace. With highest consideration.

Signed: Didier Ratsiraka, president of the Democratic Republic of Madagascar

We also recall that President Didier Ratsiraka has sent another telegram of congratulations to Korean President Kim Il-song on the occasion of his 72d birthday.

Fifth Cooperation Program Signed With Cuba

MB132111 Antananarivo Domestic Service in French 0430 GMT 13 Apr 84

[Text] The Democratic Republic of Madagascar and the Republic of Cuba yesterday afternoon signed the fifth action program of the cultural cooperation protocol between the two countries. The protocol was signed by Jean Bemananjara, Malagasy foreign minister, and Mr Oramas Oliva, Cuban deputy foreign minister. The program is in the context of a series of agreements and action programs signed in Havana on 4 September 1980 for developing cooperation and educational, cultural, and sports exchanges between the two countries. We recall that Bruno Rakotomavo, Malagasy minister of information and ideological guidance, was also present at the signing ceremony.

We also note that Jean-Jacques Seraphim yesterday morning received Oscar Oramas Oliva, Cuban deputy foreign minister, who reviewed his country's achievements in the field of health and education, as well as in the fields of animal husbandry and agriculture. He also spoke of the efforts of the Cuban people and government in the fields of sugar, medicine, and fisheries. At the meeting, the participants also stressed the possibility of broadening relations in other fields of cooperation in the framework of building socialism. Finally, we recall that a photograph exhibition will be inaugurated this morning at 1100 on the achievements of the Cuban revolution and the victory of Playa Giron, the first big defeat of imperialism in Latin America.

Mozambique Government Appoints Envoy to Country

MB131825 Antananarivo Domestic Service in French 0430 GMT 13 Apr 84

[Text] The Mozambican Government has appointed Francisco Caetano Jose Madeira as ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to the Democratic Republic of Madagascar with residence in Dar es Salaam. The Malagasy Government has given its consent to the appointment.

MOZAMBIQUE

Machel Leaves To Present Condolences in Tanzania

MB141312 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 0800 GMT 14 Apr 84

[Text] President Samora Machel left for Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, this morning, where he is going to personally present condolences to President Julius Nyerere and the Chama Cha Mapinduzi Party on the death of Prime Minister Edward Sokoine. The Mozambican head of state is accompanied by Marcelino dos Santos and Joaquim Chissano, both members of the Frelimo Party Political Bureau.

Meanwhile, President Samora Machel sent a message of condolences to President Julius Nyerere, in which he stated that with the death of Edward Sokoine, the peoples of Mozambique and Tanzania had lost a beloved son and an outstanding fighter for the cause of liberty, independence, peace, progress, and the development of peoples.

The Mozambican head of state pointed out that Prime Minister Sokoine was a revolutionary leader of exceptional qualities and a distinguished statesman with great dynamism and resolve for the unification of the Tanzanian fatherland.

A high-ranking delegation led by Marcelino dos Santos, a member of the Frelimo Party Political Bureau, will tomorrow attend the funeral ceremony of the deceased leader, Edward Sokoine, in Dar es Salaam.

The delegation includes Pascual Mocumbo, a member of the Frelimo Party Central Committee and health minister and co-chairman of the Mozambique-Tanzania Joint Commission.

Rebels Cut Off Power to Maputo Second Time

MB132003 Umtata Capital Radio in English 1900 GMT 13 Apr 84

[Text] Mozambican rebels cut off power to Maputo for several hours today. That has been reported by the NOTICIAS DE PORTUGAL news agency in Maputo.

It was the second strike reported to have hit the capital's power facilities this week. The agency said the rebels blew up a pylon 15 km from the border with South Africa. The line carries 90 percent of Maputo's electricity needs from South Africa and it was repaired by mid-afternoon.

NAMIBIA

Reportage on Deaths of 2 American Diplomats

Killed in Bomb Explosion

OW152353 Hong Kong AFP in English 2338 GMT 15 Apr 84

[Text] Windhoek, Namibia, April 15 (AFP) — Two American diplomats were killed today in a bomb attack in Namibia, South African Administrator-General Willie van Niekerk announced. The two men — whose names were not immediately released — were killed when a bomb was detonated at a gas (petrol) station where they were taking on fuel near Oshakati in northern Namibia (southwest Africa), Mr van Niekerk said. The two Americans were said to have been on their way to the South African military base at Oshakati to meet representatives of a joint committee assigned to supervise South African military disengagement from neighboring territory in southern Angola. The SOUTH AFRICAN PRESS ASSOCIATION (SAPA) said a Namibian was also killed by the blast, which wounded four other people. SAPA quoted Mr van Niekerk as blaming the attack on the South West Africa People's Organization (SWAPO), a guerrilla force fighting for Namibian independence.

SAPA quoted Mr van Niekerk as saying that "at a time when virtually everyone in southern Africa is working toward peace, SWAPO still claims to a barbaric preference for senseless violence. The world must take note of the fact that the tragic death of the U.S. personnel, whose sole task was to assist in promoting peace in the region, was perpetrated by an organization which had repeatedly rejected invitations to join in discussions with others in SWA/Namibia who are working toward a peaceful transition to independence," he said.

Dead Americans Named

MB160530 Johannesburg SAPA in English 0525 GMT 16 Apr 84

[Text] Cape Town, April 16, SAPA — The two United States diplomats killed in a bomb explosion in northern SWA/Namibia were Mr Denis Keogh, head of the U.S. Liaison Office in Windhoek and Lt-Colonel Ken Crabtree, military representative on his staff, the South African Department of Foreign Affairs announced in Cape Town today. Two other people were also killed in the blast, the department said. They were Mr Thomas Najimbomdin and an unidentified petrol attendant. Initial reports did not mention that a petrol attendant had been killed and said only three people had died in the blast.

Diplomats Not Bomb Target

MB160922 Umtata Capital Radio in English 0900 GMT 16 Apr 84

[Text] A SWAPO official in London who did not want to be identified told Capital a short while ago that it was still too early to say whether SWAPO fighters were responsbile for the attack. A Namibian official in Windhoek has told reporters that the

bomb attack was not aimed at the two U.S. diplomats. The official, who refused to be identified, told UNITED PRESS INTERNATIONAL that there was a very real possibility that it was a coincidence that the U.S. officials were killed. He described the timing of the explosion as mere chance. The official also said he did not think SWAPO had the intelligence and infrastructure to know that the car in which the Americans were traveling would be at a particular petrol station at a particular time. He described the bomb attack as a pure act of terror.

Police Continue Investigation

MB161000 Johannesburg SAPA in English 0956 GMT 16 Apr 84

[Text] Windhoek, April 16, SAPA — Police and military investigators were still sifting through the debris at a service station in northern SWA/Namibia to establish the type of explosive mechanism used in a bomb blast that killed two U.S. diplomats and two local residents, a police spokesman said today. The two Americans were the director of the U.S. Liaison Office in Windhoek, Mr Dennis Keogh, and a military representative on his staff, Lieutenant-Colonel Ken Crabtree. Mr Keogh was also political counsellor to the U.S. Embassy in South Africa. Official sources said Colonel Crabtree was killed instantly. Mr Keogh, who sustained severe burns, died on the way to hospital. The SWA/Namibian civilians were Mr Thomas Najimbomdin and an unknown petrol attendant. Four occupants in Mr Najimbomdin's truck were injured.

The bomb blast rocked Okatana -- a business complex adjoining Oshakati in the heart of the operational area in northern SWA/Namibia -- at 4:10 pm yesterday after Mr Keogh and Colonel Crabtree had pulled into a fueling station for petrol. Windows in the shopping complex were shattered and the roof of the service station destroyed, officials said. The Americans' car was a complete wreck, they added.

The two men were on a visit to Oshakati to be briefed by South African Defence Force members on the latest activity of the Angolan-South African Joint Monitoring Commission. It was not yet known how the explosive device was triggered, but the possibility was not ruled out that a limpet bomb could have been attached to the Americans' vehicle at an earlier stop. Later indications in Windhoek were that the bomb could have been stuck to a petrol pump. Explosives experts said popular detonating devices used in urban bomb attacks were timing mechanisms or remote-controlled radio-activated triggers. At Oshakati today, the secretary to the Ovambo administration, Mr Frans Viljoen, said people had gone to work as usual today but "everybody is discussing the bad business of the deaths of the two foreigners."

Meanwhile, the South African minister of foreign affairs, Mr Pik Botha, and the U.S. ambassador to South Africa, Mr Herman Nickel, have expressed shock at the incident. The British ambassador, Mr Ewen Fergusson, described the blast as a "senseless act of violence." "We are shocked and deeply saddened by these tragic events," he said. The administrator-general of SWA/Namibia, Dr Willie van Niekerk, said he did not doubt that SWAPO insurgents had caused the blast.

Forces Commander Discusses Bombing

MB161033 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1027 GMT 16 Apr 84

[Text] Windhoek, April 16, SAPA — Investigations into the bomb blast at Oshakati in northern SWA/Namibia yesterday are in full swing, the SWA territory forces supreme commander, Major-General George Meiring, told SAPA this morning. Detailed investigations by the Armed Forces in conjuction with the police are being undertaken to establish the type and nature of the bomb, General Meiring said. He said that that kind of act was not uncommon "subversion by SWAPO against the populace of Quambo," adding that no shops or schools were closed as a result of the bomb explosion. The general said he regretted that two U.S. diplomats, Mr Dennis Keogh and Lieutenant-Colonel Ken Crabtree, died in the bomb blast, but said that such action is common in the operational zone. Meanwhile, the chairman of the Information Liaison Committee of the Multi-Party Conference on the Future of SWA/Namibia, Dr Lucas de Vries, has said the MPC would give comment on the bomb blast tomorrow.

Nujoma Denies SWAPO Role

NC161045 Paris AFP in English 1037 GMT 16 Apr 84

[Text] Algiers, April 16 (AFP) — Southwest Africa People's Organisation (SWAPO) chief Sam Nujoma denied today that his movement was responsible for the bomb attack which killed two United States diplomats in northern Namibia Sunday. Mr Nujoma, who is here on a visit and had apparently not been informed of the blast, told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE that it could have been "a provocation on the part of the South African authorities to make the settlement of the Namibian question even more difficult." Mr Nujoma said that Namibia was controlled by the South African authorities, who were responsible for security in the territory. South Africa's administrator-general for Namibia, Willie van Niekerk, blamed SWAPO for the explosion, which occurred in a filling station as the two diplomats refuelled their car. The Americans were in Namibia to monitor the withdrawal of South African troops from neighbouring Angola, which they originally invaded to wipe out SWAPO guerrillas operating across the border in their fight to free Namibia from South African rule.

SWAPO Official Refuses Comment

MB161145 Windhoek Domestic Service in English 1115 GMT 16 Apr 84

[Text] [Passage indistinct] Mr Nico Bessinger, SWAPO joint secretary of foreign affairs, refused to comment on the explosion until he has recieved full details on the matter.

Authorities Say 3 Killed

MB161130 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1120 GMT 16 Apr 84

[Text] Windhoek, April 16, SAPA — Authorities in SWA/Namibia said today they had no knowledge of a fourth man killed

in the bomb blast yesterday. An earlier report from Cape Town today said that apart from two U.S. diplomats and a local resident, an unknown petrol attendant died in the bomb explosion at the Okatana fueling station. We have no knowledge of the death of such a person in the blast, said a spokesman for the office of the administrator-general.

Toivo Says SWAPO Ready To Sign Cease-Fire

MB131313 Johannesburg International Service in English 1100 GMT 13 Apr 84

[Text] A founder member of SWAPO, Mr Herman Toivo Ja Toivo, has told a news conference in Windhoek that SWAPO is prepared to sign a cease-fire with South Africa as soon as South Africa agrees to free,UN-supervised elections. Speaking after his 6-nation African tour that included his first meeting with SWAPO President Mr Sam Nujoma and President Kaunda of Zambia, Mr Ja Toivo said SWAPO was prepared to talk to South Africa anywhere and at any time. He said SWAPO would require, however, that the talks should be with a view to implementation of Security Council Resolution 435. He told a meeting that the signing of the Lusaka agreement between South Africa and Angola in February had not affected Angola's support for SWAPO.

National Party Leader Says Ties With RSA Severed

MB132032 Umtata Capital Radio in English 1900 GMT 13 Apr 84

[Text] The leader of the South-West Africa National Party says his party's ties with South Africa have been severed. Kosie Pretorius warned his party today that it could no longer expect preferential treatment from South Africa, as the country has indicated it would accept a well-disposed black government in Namibia. Pretorius said that his party had met with South African Prime Minister Pieter Botha more than a year ago, and several subsequent requests for meetings have been refused by Botha. He warned that ultimately South Africa would act in its own interests. Pretorius' statement was published in Windhoek today. His party is a member of the Multiparty Conference for Namibia.

SOUTH AFRICA

Reportage on Reaction to Diplomats' Deaths

Foreign Minister Sends Condolences

MB160524 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 16 Apr 84

[Text] The minister of foreign affairs, Mr Pik Botha, has sent a message to the American secretary of state, Mr George Shultz, expressing the government's shock and regret at what he describes as the tragic and brutal incident in which the American diplomats were killed. He asks Mr Shultz to convey the government's condolences to the families of the victims and says the circumstances surrounding the explosion will be thoroughly investigated. The American Government, he said, would be kept fully informed of developments. Mr Botha said it was bitterly ironic that the diplomats whom had been so closely involved in the search for peace in southern Africa should become the victims of the very cycle of violence they were trying to end. South Africa's prayers would be with the United States and the diplomats' families. Mr Botha also conveyed his condolences to Mr Najimbomdin's relatives, and expressed concern about the condition of the petrol attendant injured in the explosion.

Paper Comments on Bombing

MB160833 Johannesburg SAPA in English 0826 GMT 16 Apr 84

[Text] Johannesburg, April 16, SAPA — It had to happen sooner or later that a foreigner became the victim of SWAPO's haphazard violence in South-West Africa, the *VOLKSBLAD*, Bloemfontein, said in an editorial today. "The bomb that exploded yesterday afternoon at a petrol station near Oshakati followed the typical pattern of death and destruction: three motorists and a petrol attendant killed and four people, including a young child, injured. Dozens of land mines and bombs have already exploded in South West, mainly aimed at the local black population and sometimes at the security forces.

"Yesterday's explosion will have international repercussions because two of the victims were American officials, en route to the Joint Monitoring Commission, which, in compliance with the Lusaka agreement, promoted peace on the northern border of South-West Africa. America, according to all indications, played an important role in the promotion of peace in the region and it was only logical that American diplomats should keep in touch with developments. It was possible that the attack was aimed specifically at these two men, although early evidence seems to dispute this.

"It is also possible that the events could result in an unlogical reaction in the United States. In place of indignation at the methods of terror that have been used by SWAPO and the like for so long, and a determination to put a halt to such deeds, or at least to keep them in check, the death of two of their fellow countrymen could refuel the call for isolation by the Americans. The death of American Marines in Lebanon caused the American public to ask what they were doing there in the first place and to insist on their withdrawal. After the Carter-era, when a fiasco was made of American relations with South Africa, the Democrats are not allowing President Reagan any foreign policy success in this part of the world and will try to undo the valuable American contribution to peace. It will not be in the interests of the subcontinent, or the free world, if this destructive approach succeeds."

New Republic Party Comments

MB161222 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1215 GMT 16 Apr 84

[Text] Cape Town, April 16, SAPA — The tragic loss of life of two American diplomats, whose very presence in the area of the incident underscores the southern African peace initiative, once again highlighted SWAPO's commitment to violence and acts of

terrorism against the innocent. Mr Brian Page, the NRP's [New Republic Party's] spokesman on foreign affairs said in a statement in Cape Town today.

We trust this senseless act will in no way affect the declared policies of constructive engagement on the part of the Reagan administration which has done more than any other before it to assist in the finding of peaceful solutions to the problems of southern Africa. One can only offer one's heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families and the American people, Mr Page said.

SWAZILAND

Reportage on Killing, Hunt for ANC Members

ANC Men Kill Policeman

MB141141 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 1115 GMT 14 Apr 84

[Text] A Swaziland police officer has been shot dead by ANC men near Manzini. SAPA reports that the officer had approached the ANC hideout under the impression that the ANC men had surrendered after a 5-hour gun battle. However, the ANC men starting firing again and the officer was killed.

Police have been hunting 7 ANC men who escaped from custody last week. The men had been arrested near the Swaziland border with Mozambique. Five policemen were wounded in the incident this morning, one of them critically. SAPA reports that the hideout in the Zakhele Township of Manzini housed 12 ANC members. Police approached the hideout early this morning. A 5-hour gun battle followed after which 11 of the ANC men indicated that they wanted to surrender. Police approached the house unaware of the one man remaining inside. He opened fire and hit six of the policemen. Three of the ANC men escaped and the rest were captured.

Police Commissioner Discusses Shootout

MB150525 Mbabane Television Service in English 1700 GMT 14 Apr 84

[Text] A police officer was shot dead this morning and five others wounded, one critically, when armed members of the ANC opened fire on them while resisting arrest at Zakhele Township in Manzini. According to the commissioner of police, Mr Titus Msibi, this morning, his police force received a tipoff that 12 ANC members were holed up in the house in Zakhele, and subsequently went to the house to arrest them. The police surrounded the house, and some of the men then left the house with their arms in the air.

It was, however, a trick, as the other men still inside th house opened fire as the police moved to arrest the ones surrendering. One of the ANC group was wounded, and nine were arrested. Three have escaped, however, and they are armed. Mr Msibi added that the critically injured police officer is not expected to live, as he was shot through the eye. The names of the wounded have not yet been released.

Police Conduct Nationwide Hunt

MB150634 Umtata Capital Radio in English 0600 GMT 15 Apr 84

[Text] Swazi police are said to have arrested five more ANC members in a swoop on a Mbabane suburb yesterday. Police also discovered an arms cache in a raid on the suburb of Dalriach [near Veni in Mbabane]. This brings to 13 the number of ANC members arrested yesterday, and Swazi police say they are engaged in a nationwide hunt for ANC members. SAPA quotes informed sources as saying the Royal Swazi Police have met with the Swazi Defense Force to discuss possible military aid in the search. The suspected ANC member who shot dead a police officer yesterday has reportedly been arrested along with eight others who were involved in the shootout. [Word indistinct] police sources say the hunt will only end when all ANC members in Swaziland are locked up. The source says those captured will be charged or deported.

ANC Leader To Visit

MB150856 Johannesburg SUNDAY TIMES in English 15 Apr Extra Section p 1

[Excerpts] Swaziland has mobilised its entire police and Armed Forces to round up all members of the ANC after a clash early yesterday morning in which a Swazi policeman and an ANC man were shot dead. Five policemen were wounded, one of them critically in the shootout. The area where the shooting took place has been cordoned off. Mr Oliver Tambo, the leader of the ANC, is expected to arrive at Mbabane airport from Harare early this afternoon to intervene before the Swazi Government takes further steps to flush out ANC refugees. There are conflicting reports about how many ANC men are still at large and being sought by police. About four people were killed and about 17 injured in shootouts between police and members of the ANC during the week. Other reports said that in Mbabane an unidentified man and a woman were killed. The Swazi Government and the ANC have never had direct shootouts with each other before. Although there has been no official comment from either of the parties, the tough action taken by the government has indicated its anger.

Officials Discuss Security Cooperation

MB152012 Johannesburg SAPA in English 0827 GMT 15 Apr 84

[Text] Mbabane, Apr 15, SAPA — Swaziland police are continuing their search today for three armed ANC men who escaped after a 5-hour shootout between a gang of 12 ANC members and Swaziland police near Manzini yesterday morning. A reliable source in Manzini said this morning that the Swaziland commissioner of police, Mr Titus Msibi, and other senior police officers met with senior officers of the Swaziland Defence Force in Manzini last night to discuss the vicious turn of events concerning ANC activity in the country.

Although the commissioner was not available for comment, the source said it was believed the meeting last night between the police and the Army chiefs was held to draw up recommendations

concerning the possible cooperation between the two in tracking down militant ANC members still at large. The source said recommendations were to be discussed at the meeting which is due to be held under the chairmanship of the prime minister, Prince Bhekimpi, later today. There has been no official confirmation of a report in a SA Sunday newspaper today that Mr Oliver Tambo will be arriving in Swaziland this afternoon to hold urgent discussions with the Swaziland Government concerning yesterday's shooting and the position of the ANC in Swaziland. Meanwhile public opinion and feelings are running high following yesterday's killing of a senior Swaziland police officer and the serious wounding of five others by the ANC in Manzini.

Security Forces Continue Search

MB160640 Mbabane THE SWAZI OBSERVER in English 16 Apr 84 p 3

[Excerpts] Paramilitary police armed to the teeth yesterday mounted roadblocks along the Mbabane-Manzini road in search of what observers believe to be ANC men who are at large. Motorists were stopped and searched thoroughly. Bus commuters were told to come out one by one while the police conducted the search. This was the biggest search ever mounted by police and came at a time when senior members of the police were either shot dead or wounded when ANC men opened fire at them at Zakhele on Saturday morning. And on Saturday night, police, according to eyewitnesses,were involved in another shoot-out in old Ngwane Park between Mzinene and Mgubudla river. The gunbattle is understood to have started at around 18 hours up [to] 19 hours. Unconfirmed reports said the police managed to round up some ANC men, but the figure could not be obtained yesterday.

Later in the afternoon yesterday, paramilitary police surrounded the old Ngwane Park looking for some of the ANC men who are understood to have sought sanctuary there. Armed and in combat gear, the paramilitary men combed the area and some of the ANC men were seen being picked [up] from some houses. By the time of going to press last night, *THE OBSERVER* could not get the official comment on how many of the ANC men had been rounded up in the exercise which is understood to have started at about 2 am from Malkerns and later Ngwane Park.